

Report condemns 'grave abuse'

UDR leaked to loyalists says Stevens

By Philip Webster and Edward Gorman

THE Government, Conservative MPs and Ulster Unionists united to voice full confidence in the Ulster Defence Regiment last night in the wake of a report that said members of the security forces colluded with "loyalist" terrorists in Northern Ireland.

Mr John Stevens, deputy chief constable of Cambridgeshire, found after a seven-month inquiry that some members of the security forces "gravely abused their positions of trust" by passing information to paramilitaries. But he concluded that the abuse, which almost entirely involved UDR members, was neither widespread nor institutionalized.

He said there had been a serious shortage of controls and adequate accounting procedures relating to the distribution of intelligence documents, and his report calls for a radical overhaul of the supervision of the intelligence system in Northern Ireland. His 83 recommendations also include a demand for structural changes within the Royal Ulster Constabulary, with new anti-terrorist and serious crimes squads, and an expanded fingerprinting bureau. Ninety-four people were arrested in connection with the inquiry, the first outside investigation in the province since the Shillington inquiry, and 59 have been charged, or reported for criminal offences.

No charges have been laid against members of the RUC, although Mr Stevens said yesterday that reports on two police officers had been submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions. Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons that some of Mr Stevens's findings were painful, but he saw nothing to lessen his conviction "that the UDR plays a vital and valued part in the Army's support for the police-led anti-terrorist effort. I am convinced that the regiment is fundamentally sound."

Mr Stevens had highlighted deficiencies and shortcomings in several important areas. "Action by the police and the Army to remedy many of the deficiencies to which Mr Stevens has drawn attention has already been taken or is now in hand. I am fully aware of the great efforts that continue to be made by the regiment steadily to improve its effectiveness and professionalism and I have no doubt that the overwhelming majority of its members impartially serve the whole community in Northern Ireland."

Unionists, who also spoke strongly in support of the UDR, condemned the report as a cynical political exercise. Mr Peter Robinson, MP for East Belfast and deputy leader of the Democratic Unionists, said: "The whole basis of his inquiry was to attempt to placate the nationalists. That was what he set out to do - carrying out an attack on the UDR - and it seems the report almost vindicates the RUC."

The Rev William McCrea, Democratic Unionist MP for Mid Ulster, said the report revealed the "political hype" against the security forces as totally unwarranted, and Mr James Kilfedder, the Popular Unionist MP for North Down, said a "large and expensive sledgehammer" had been used to crack a miserable nut. The time and money used on the inquiry could have been used to apprehend more terrorists and save innocent lives.

Mr Kevin McNamara, Labour's spokesman on Northern Ireland, said Mr Stevens's conclusion that leaks could not be eliminated entirely would not enhance the reputation of the security forces or facilitate co-operation with their Irish counterparts. The report had shown "an appalling degree of laxity" in the security forces' handling of information. He called for an assurance that Mr Hugh Acheson, the RUC Chief Constable, would act immediately on Mr Stevens's recommendations.

Mr Annesley, who sat beside Mr Stevens at the press conference after publication of the report, said that some of the 31 recommendations specifically intended for the RUC had already been implemented and others would be considered. He expressed reservations about the formation of an anti-terrorist squad and said: "I must point out that issues of scale could make some of the recommendations impracticable in the Northern Ireland context."

Mr Annesley called in Mr Stevens last September after the Ulster Freedom Fighters, a loyalist terrorist group, justified its murder of a Roman Catholic man by showing intelligence documents to the BBC which it claimed had been received from members of the security forces.

Yesterday he said the investigation had shown that "an outside inquiry can take place into the affairs of the security forces in Northern Ireland with the total co-operation of all concerned". Mr Annesley also pointed out that the inquiry had not uncovered evidence of wrongdoing by its officers who, he said, had engaged in unjustified "innuendo about their activities."

"Unless there is evidence, as opposed to speculation, of wrongdoing, then my officers are entitled to the virtue of innocence," Mr Stevens dismissed criticism of his inquiry and in particular accusations that he has not investigated the RUC as thoroughly as the UDR. "I have done a very thorough job and we have got to the heart of the matter," he said. But Mr Seamus Mallon, security spokesman for the Social and Democratic Labour Party, said Mr Stevens had failed to do that because no police officers had been convicted in spite of evidence that leaked documents had come from police stations.

The Army, which is seriously criticized by Mr Stevens over past recruiting practices into the UDR, said it saw no difficulty in implementing recommendations, subject to resources, and would give the report its highest priority. The Irish government, which served its position, but it is thought likely it will press further its case made last November for a total review of UDR operations.

Report details, page 4
Photograph, page 4
Parliament, page 5
Leading article, page 15

Britain seeks Italian ban on 100 hooligans

By Quentin Cowdry, Home Affairs Correspondent

BRITAIN is to press the Italian Government to ban about 100 convicted football hooligans from attending the World Cup finals in June.

Mr David Waddington, the Home Secretary, made clear yesterday that it was for Italy to decide whether the individuals should be banned, but he said the British Government's view was that they should.

The 1989 Football Spectators Act empowers British courts to impose "restriction orders" on soccer thugs,

preventing them from attending matches at home and abroad for stipulated periods. The provisions, which came into force on April 24, cannot be used retrospectively.

It is understood that some of the names were supplied by the newly formed National Football Intelligence Unit, based at Scotland Yard, which is preparing a computer database on soccer hooliganism.

Police demand, page 7
Inquiry likely, page 48

Equal age pensions shock for UK firms

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

EQUAL pension ages for men and women under occupational pension schemes will have to be phased in by the United Kingdom companies in the wake of an important ruling by the European Court of Justice yesterday.

In a "landmark ruling" that could cost British pension funds up to £2 billion a year unless they raise the retirement age of women employees, the Court in Luxembourg ruled that company pension schemes which discriminate between men and women on redundancy payments are in breach of the Treaty of Rome.

But the ruling, which is expected to force the Government to tackle equal state pension ages, comes too late for the man who brought the case. Mr Douglas Barber, a former deputy claims manager with the Guardian Royal Exchange in Sheffield, died last year, aged 60. Ten years ago he went to an industrial tribunal, arguing that had he been a woman, he would have been entitled to an immediate pension when he was made redundant. Under the company's pension scheme, employees made redundant within 10 years of retirement, qualified for a pension immediately. His normal retiring age would have been 62 while that of a woman in an equivalent position would have been 57.

Law Report, page 42
Leading article, page 15



Mr Douglas Barber: Died before he could benefit

Stocks and pound rise despite jobless figures

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

SPECULATION that Britain would shortly join the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System gave the pound, gilts and shares their best day for months yesterday.

Sterling rose 1.35 cents against the dollar to \$1.6910 and the FTSE 100 index rose 28.51, leaving the effective exchange rate index up 0.7 at 88.1.

In the stock market the most widely traded shares rose sharply and the FTSE 100 index closed up 63.3 at 2284.4. Gilt-edged stocks were more than £2 higher among the longer-dated stocks.

In the money market rates fell as sterling strengthened and for the first time in many months they slipped, at one point, below 15 per cent, indicating a possible fall in base rates. The Bank of England steadied the movement.

The speculation was prompted by an interview with Mr John Major, the Chancellor, in *The Wall Street Journal*, in which he reaffirmed the Government's

commitment to entering the ERM. He said: "Anybody who thinks we're playing with this as a gesture is wrong."

In a speech last night to the Confederation of British Industry he used a similar formula saying: "I am sure we will benefit from joining the ERM, and join it we most certainly will when our conditions are met."

Whitehall sources said the interview and yesterday's speech formed part of a generally more positive attitude towards Europe.

The excitement in markets came against the background of generally sobering figures on the economy. Unemployment rose for the first time in 44 months, ending the long decline which has brought the numbers out of work in Britain below the European average. After seasonal adjustment, unemployment rose 1,200 in April to 1,605,600.

The rise in average earnings was unchanged in March at 9.4 per cent but in the production industries it accelerated to 9.9 per cent.

Mr Michael Howard, the Employment Secretary, said: "The interruption in the downward trend in unemployment need only be short-term, but much depends on the behaviour of wage negotiators."

Costs warning: In the Commons, the Prime Minister warned that unit labour costs in Britain had increased by 5 per cent while in Germany and Japan they had remained static. In the US they had risen by only 2 per cent and in France they had actually fallen by 2 per cent (Robin Oakley writes).

She added: "That means we are taking out more in pay than we are putting in in productivity and that can only have a damaging effect on jobs in the future."

Mr Tony Blair, Labour's employment spokesman, called the figures "devastating" and said they were the "final indicator of the Government's incompetence".

Full reports, page 25
Comment, page 27

Decision on tunnel rail link

By Michael Dynes, Transport Correspondent

THE Cabinet will decide next week whether to back proposals for the 68-mile Channel tunnel rail link with the injection of a £400 million subsidy, informed sources say.

Despite fierce Treasury opposition, the decision is expected to be favourable, thus giving the go-ahead for the long awaited announcement on how the Channel tunnel trains will be routed into King's Cross through south London from Swanley.

British Rail will put up about £1 billion towards the link, while its two private sector partners, Trafalgar House and BICC, will provide about £1.2 billion, leaving the Government to fund the outstanding £400 million needed to make the project commercially viable.

The Cabinet will also decide whether to assume responsibility for piloting the necessary legislation through Parliament by abandoning the proposed private Bill in favour of a hybrid Bill, thus ensuring the Bill's passage.

Rival party soon Gorbachov says

From Mary Dejevsky, Moscow

PRESIDENT Gorbachov yesterday blamed his fellow countrymen's conservative cast of mind for the Soviet Union's present difficulties and suggested for the first time that the Communists might soon have to deal with a real opposition party.

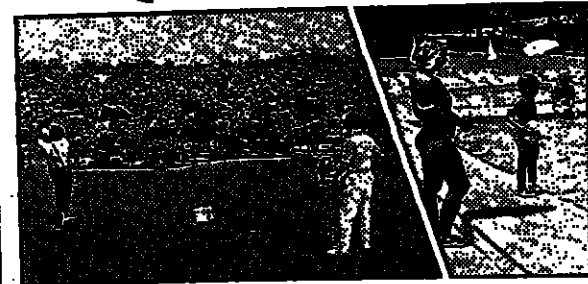
Mr Gorbachov, who is facing growing opposition to his policies from a disillusioned electorate, was speaking off the cuff to journalists yesterday during a break in the proceedings of the Russian Federation Congress here. He had been sitting in the gallery for the second consecutive day, impatiently drumming his fingers on the gilt sill as belligerent parliamentary deputies from left and right continued to tear each other

apart over minutiae of the congress agenda. In some of his most forthright comments about the current state of the Soviet Union, Mr Gorbachov said he was "an incorrigible optimist". He declared that "even when people all around me are shouting 'Chaos, chaos, chaos', and 'Collapse, collapse', I believe, as Lenin said, that this revolutionary chaos may yet crystallize into new forms of life."

The one thing to be avoided, he said, was getting involved in fights which could destroy perestroika and lead to bloodshed or even civil war.

Continued on page 24, col 5
Bush pressure, page 10
Estonia defiant, page 10

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INDEX

Arts	18, 19
Business	25-34
Court & Social	16
Crosswords	22-24
Law Report	42
Leading articles	15
Letters	15
Motoring	38
Obituary	16
Parliament	22
Preview	43-48
Sport	23
TV & Radio	24
Weather	24

Look and live, says anti-terror chief after van bombing

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

THE two soldiers in the van blown up by the IRA in north London on Wednesday checked the vehicle before getting in, but did not look far enough, Scotland Yard said yesterday.

The bomb, which killed one of the men and injured the other, was attached by a magnet directly below the gear stick of the Sherpa van. It could only have been seen if someone got on their hands and knees or on their back and checked right under the vehicle. Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of the anti-terrorist squad, said. He warned military personnel, politicians and civil servants with links to Northern Ireland that they must be prepared for an IRA campaign that could even strike at them in their homes.

"We are going to see a sophisticated campaign," he said. "There may be something entirely different tomorrow in a different part of the country." But he did not believe there would be constant and widespread attacks as in the IRA campaigns of the 1970s.

After two attacks in London within the space of 48 hours, the next might be elsewhere in Britain. A bomb may be left inside a car, a device might be sent through the post, or a house could be booby-trapped. There might be two bombs timed to go off one after the other. "If you value your life you should look and live, not only today, but tomorrow and next week, for

the immediate, foreseeable future," he said. Those at risk should be familiar with the normal appearance of the underside of their cars. Bombs could be disguised with black paint or black tape.

The bomb on Wednesday exploded after Sergeant Charles Chapman, of the 3rd Battalion, the Queen's Regiment, had started driving. The van, which had been parked all day at the back of an Army careers information office in Wembley, had gone a few feet when the bomb attached by a powerful magnet went off. The driver was killed, his companion wounded and a woman civilian waiting to get into the van suffered shock.

A few more yards and the van would have reached the main road and the bomb could have dealt even more death and destruction, Mr Churchill-Coleman said.

He believed the bomb was probably the work of the same unit that buried a timed device that exploded outside the headquarters of the Army Education Directorate in Eltham, south London, on Monday.

Yesterday Lieutenant-Colonel Andrew Barratt, commander of Sergeant Chapman's battalion, said the man who died had become a recruiting sergeant after a two-year tour of duty in Northern Ireland. "He was a first-class non-commissioned officer highly regarded by everybody and extremely popular with the soldiers under his com-

mand. Sergeant Chapman was a true professional. He managed to motivate his men through his cheerfulness and application. It was for those reasons that he was selected to be a recruiting sergeant."

Sergeant Chapman, aged 34, who joined the Army in 1972, had two children, Ian, aged 11, and Kathleen, aged nine. His wife, Marian, is from Durham. The wounded sergeant, who is married with three children, is still being treated in Northwick Park Hospital for burns to his face and shrapnel wounds to his right shoulder and legs. He was said to be in good spirits and likely to be allowed home shortly.

● The Prime Minister yesterday stoked up the resentment between London and Dublin by expressing her doubt that the Irish courts would be willing to extradite to Britain any bomber who escaped to the Irish Republic (Our Political Editor writes).

Mr Neil Kinnock had won plaudits from MPs on all sides by forgoing his usual opportunity to harry the Government. He used his intervention at Prime Minister's Questions simply to condemn the bombings, offer condolences to the family of the dead and injured and to pledge: "No government formed from either side of this House will ever concede to violence."

After Mrs Thatcher, too, had condemned the "vicious attacks" by those who were unprepared to accept the verdict of the ballot box, she was asked by Mr Ian Gow "if those suspected of responsibility for these attacks in London escape to the Irish Republic in the belief, understandably, that they would find safe haven there, how confident is she that a proper request for extradition would be upheld by the Irish Supreme Court?"

She replied: "I wish that I could answer him that I would be confident that an extradition order would be upheld, but I cannot do so, as he knows. We must be able to extradite people so that they have no safe haven in the Republic."

The Government has been angered by the unwillingness of Irish courts to extradite to Britain Father Patrick Ryan, the IRA suspect, two Maze escapees, whom an Irish court held would risk ill-treatment if returned to Northern Ireland, and Mr Owen Carron, the former Sinn Féin MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone.

The Irish Government has argued that the situation will improve once its 1987 Extradition Act is brought into effect, but Britain remains worried that the Act will continue to allow extradition requests to fail on political grounds. A group of British and Irish civil servants is looking into the problems.

Parliament, page 5



President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt meeting the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, for talks at 10 Downing Street yesterday

Gummer acts to dispel fears on cow disease

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

THE Government yesterday sought to reassure people over the "mad cow" disease by saying that measures had been taken to tackle the disease.

In a defence of the Government's reaction to bovine spongiform encephalopathy, Mr John Gummer, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, rounded on his critics and the media. He came under criticism from opposition MPs for his handling of the problem and the opposition spokesman on agriculture accused him of doing "nowt" to ease the worries of consumers.

Mr Gummer told MPs during a statement in the Commons that there was no justification for the alarmist reporting that had appeared over the past few days.

Mr Gummer demanded that those who "pontificated" on BSE should send any scientific material they had to the expert committee which was studying the problem. He said the BBC and indepen-

dent television should ask before they interviewed people named as "experts" whether they had had articles published in scientific journals.

Any animal found to have BSE was destroyed and no part of it entered the food chain, he said. Cattle entering the slaughterhouse had the specified offals, which could harbour the agent, removed.

● The early detection of BSE in infected cattle may be possible from new research (Thomson Prentice writes).

Professor John Bourne, director of the Institute for Animal Health, said yesterday that tests showed the scrapie, a related disease in sheep, caused detectable changes in the brain and spleen of laboratory mice less than halfway through the long incubation period of the condition.

The institute has developed a monoclonal antibody capable of recognizing the changes.

Farmers' leader in the front line

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

Sir Simon Gourlay, the leader of the National Farmers' Union, who yesterday met Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to discuss whether more action is needed to counter alarm over "mad cow" disease, is a far from typical farmer. That is probably an asset at a time when farmers' and farming's popularity is at a low ebb.

"He does not look like a farmer or sound like one and most of his members do not regard him as one of them. There is a lot of respect for his intellect but he does not inspire the same sort of affection that, say, Sir Henry Plumb did. Many would like to see him thumping the farming drum much harder, but that is not his style," a colleague said yesterday.

Sir Simon, aged 54, is a first-generation farmer. He is the son of an army officer, and has something of the soldier's stiff-backed bearing. He went to Winchester and then did two years of National Service with the Army in West Germany. After a short course at the Royal Agricultural Col-

lege, he worked on a Cheshire dairy farm for two years. In 1958 he moved to Boreford, near Knighton, on the Welsh border with Herefordshire, where he has farmed 800 acres as both a tenant and owner-occupier since then.

He has personal experience of bovine spongiform encephalopathy as three of his own 800 Friesian cows went down with the disease last year and had to be destroyed. He and his wife also keep sheep and grow cereals.



Sir Simon Gourlay: Has lost cattle to BSE

Spill trawler skipper attacks statement

By Lin Jenkins

THE skipper of the trawler said by the Government to be at fault over the Devon oil spill, denied yesterday that his vessel was responsible for the collision that left hundreds of tonnes of oil-saturated "mousse" on tourist beaches.

Mr Richard Hosking, captain of the Dionne Marie, said: "The minister has branded me responsible before the inquiry is even complete... I'm worried about my ticket, but I think it was six of one and half-a-dozen of the other."

Speaking for the first time since Saturday, when the trawler holed the Liberian-registered supertanker Rose Bay, which spilled more than 1,100 tonnes of oil, Mr Hosking, aged 31, from Brixham, Devon, the only certificated officer on the trawler, said he felt it grossly unfair that Mr Patrick McLoughlin, Under Secretary of State for Transport, had told the Commons that the trawler had not seen the tanker in visibility of three to four miles and had rammed it in spite of the tanker taking evasive action.

"The mate was on watch, and he has

more sea-time than me and I have always trusted him. He is really freaked out by it all. The marine accident investigators have interviewed me twice already and told me not to talk about it. But the Government has, without knowing all the facts, I am as much for conservation as anyone; after all, I'm a fisherman, that's all I know and my life depends upon it."

He felt it was wrong for the Government to comment before the inquiry report was complete. "It is too early to apportion blame. If I am not allowed to give my side of the story publicly why should they?"

A spokesman for the Department of Transport said Mr McLoughlin had merely been informing the House on the "initial findings" of the inquiry and not apportioning blame when he stated that the mate on watch had not seen the Rose Bay.

Oil was still coming ashore last night along 15 miles of coast and the clean-up team expected more to come in on today's high tide. Insurers of the 274,571 tonne Rose Bay said yesterday that they were legally obliged to meet the costs of

All change down at the county farm show

By Jamie Dettmer

ONCE upon a time, an agricultural show always boasted a palmist on its fringes. Young maids would be convincingly informed of the imminent approach of a tall, dark and handsome man. Times have changed.

Nowadays, at the Devon County Show, the palmists have gone. Instead, you can "get a palm print in support of charity". If you want to know about yourself, why not take a psychometric personality test by answering computer-set questions? Results are given in the form of a graph.

More than 100,000 visitors piled into the first day of the 95th Devon County Show yesterday, set in a new £5 million purpose-built site at Westpoint, near Exeter. They were greeted by a record number of trade exhibitors, most of whom had little connection with agriculture.

The exhibitors ranged from a Saab dealer showing off the latest cabriolet, a Mercedes-Benz stand, a variety of banks, British Telecom and the South West Electricity Board with its electric picture show. Farmers have had to diversify, so have their shows.

"Farming shows just used to be a matter of cattle tied up at posts and the exhibition of a few new tractors," Mr Chris Cullen, chief executive of the Devon County Agricultural Association, said. "We've had to change. Only about 20 per cent of the people who come here have any links with farming."

Some of the older hands had reservations. "Yes, it has changed tremendously," sighed Mr John Horne, aged 91, who attended his first show in 1930. "The show used to travel around the county and there were a lot more agricultural stands."

With the onslaught of recent salmonella and mad cow disease health scares and falling incomes, farmers now feel especially put upon. Yesterday, however, they tried to forget the poor prospects for their sons. The tweed, cloth caps around the ring nodded their approval at the procession of animals. The bowler-hatted judges pushed and poked in time-honoured ways at the entries.

All was well. A few yards away, there were Mrs Gill's country cakes - "Perfect for picnics, super for sailing, fine for fishing."

Strangeways to be redeveloped in £60m plan

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

THE Government is to spend £60 million redeveloping Strangeways Prison after it was wrecked during the 25-day siege.

Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Home Office, said the prison would be providing accommodation for 200 prisoners within six months. By the end of the year it would house 300 inmates, rising to almost 1,000 within three years.

He said in a written Commons reply yesterday that there would be an extensive refurbishment of the cells, including the provision of integral sanitation to avoid "slopping out".

The Home Office is pressing ahead urgently with repairs to the least damaged K wing because of the acute demand for remand places in the North-west. There will be no integral sanitation in that section initially when it is brought back into action after four to five months.

K wing will be used along with places in the undamaged prison hospital to provide accommodation for up to 200 inmates who would otherwise have had to be kept in police cells. Additional security will be provided.

There are to be detailed discussions on the work proposed within the prison with the board of visitors, the Manchester prison service and trades unions.

Mr Mellor said last night: "Manchester has an urgent need for a local prison as soon as possible, with the need for remand places especially important."

Mr Brendan O'Brien, the governor of Strangeways, welcomed the repair plans. It was, he said, "like a phoenix rising from the ashes". The redevelopment would address the prisoners' main grievances during the siege - overcrowding and slopping out.

The plans will mean one man to a cell, although there would still be doubling-up in cases where the authorities decided it was beneficial for inmates.

Mr O'Brien said: "I am absolutely certain the combination of the major prison building programme and the reduced population will allow us to operate on a much more sensible level in the future."

At the time of the riot Strangeways, which should have had a complement of 970, had 1,650 prisoners. He said that since the end of the

siege a detailed assessment of the structural damage to the prison has been undertaken. Mr O'Brien said the damage was not as substantial as it had first appeared.

● Prison officers in London have suspended their industrial action in response to an agreement that management should drop plans to replace a London weighting allowance with a "temporary supplement" (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The Home Office has agreed to reinstate the annual allowance, though it will be frozen at its present level of £1,750.

In addition, the 4,000 uniformed staff working in eight jails in the London area will receive an annual supplement of £100 which will be up-rated each year pending the settlement of a new long-term pay deal.

The Prison Officers' Association, which regards the agreement as a Home Office climb-down, had feared that the department's plan to replace the allowance with a temporary supplement represented a step towards local pay bargaining.

Cider guide

Only a tenth of the cider sold in the UK is produced with English cider apples. Mr David Kitton, editor of *The Good Cider Guide*, said yesterday at the first national cider exhibition. Ciders made from imported apple concentrate owed "more to the skills of the chemist than the cider maker".

Monster prize

William Hill, the bookmakers, are offering £250,000 to anyone who can prove the Loch Ness monster exists, to the satisfaction of the Natural History Museum, during a monster hunting weekend in October. They are also offering £25,000 to anyone who finds proof before 1993.

Nature protest

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is urging people to throw out the Government's plan for breaking up the Nature Conservancy Council into four agencies. The Lords starts work today on the Environmental Protection Bill which contains the provision.

Core subjects

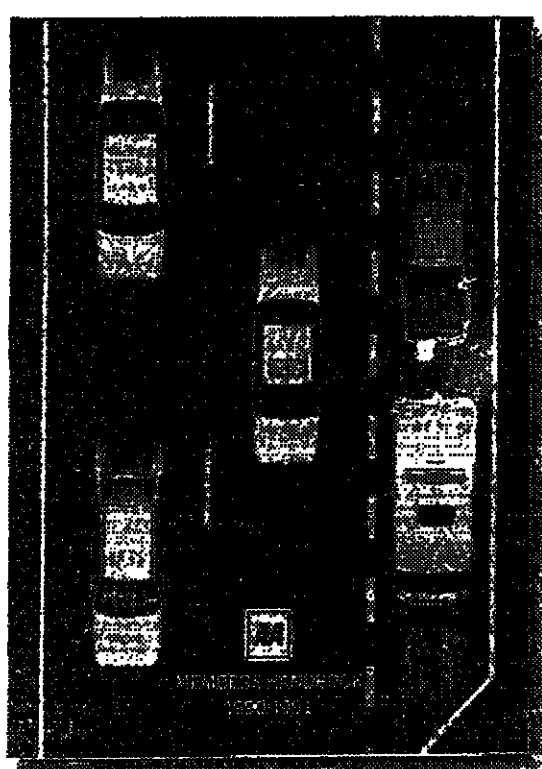
Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced yesterday that he was endorsing proposals to introduce core skills for pupils aged 16 to 19. He believed communication, problem solving, and personal skills should be built in to S and A level courses.

CND support

Britain's second biggest Civil Service union yesterday voted to affiliate to the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in a big reversal of policy. The annual conference of the National Union of Civil and Public Servants in Blackpool voted by 47,190 to 40,250 to donate £200 to the campaign.

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Instruments were wrong, says co-pilot in M1 crash

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

THE co-pilot of the airliner that crashed on to the M1, killing 47 people, told an inquest yesterday that he was more convinced than ever that the instruments on the aircraft wrongly indicated that there was a problem with the starboard engine.

Mr David McClelland, who had earlier repeatedly said he could not remember either which engine he had shut down or what indications he was getting from the instruments, told the inquest he had re-examined the events of January 8 last year in a simulator and had had no difficulty recognizing which engine was giving trouble. "It makes me decide that I had taken my information from the panel and it makes me conclusive that the information I read was related to the starboard engine," he said.

There must have been very clear indications that the fault lay with the starboard engine because had there been any level of uncertainty I would have told the captain that I did not know where the problem was coming from," Mr McClelland said. Captain Kevin Hunt had also assessed the problem and had agreed with his diagnosis.

Mr McClelland agreed that he had throttled back on the right-hand engine, but said he had learnt this only since the accident. His memory of the

night of the crash was hazy, he said, but he had since heard the cockpit voice recorder which showed that he had told the captain that the problem was in the right-hand engine, which he now accepted was in good working order.

Mr McClelland, who spent four months in hospital after the Boeing 737-400 crashed on to the motorway embankment at Kegworth, had been the handling pilot as the aircraft took off. He said the first sign of a problem was a moderate to severe vibration that he heard rather than felt. That was followed by a smell of rubber and oil similar to that created by a hot engine.

"I have a recollection of moving forward to attempt to level the aircraft, but the captain had already taken manual control and disconnected the auto-pilot," he said. "The events that followed from that point have been mostly gleaned from information after the event."

Mr Philip Tomlinson, the North Leicestershire coroner, asked: "Who throttled back the right engine?" "I cannot remember specifically," Mr McClelland replied. "The captain was in control at the time and I remember going through the shutdown drill."

"Which engine did you shut down?"

"I do not recall which engine it was."

Mr McClelland said he did not recall any of the instruments on the panel at the time and his own clear recollection was of going through the engine shutdown checklist. "The vibration died away and the smell of burning became less and the aircraft seemed to settle with the remaining engine."

Mr McClelland said he remembered having a very high workload just before the impact and of red lights warning that the aircraft was sliding below the glide slope. "Beyond that I have no further recollection until I came to in the cockpit."

The inquest has been told that when the aircraft first began to vibrate, Mr McClelland was asked which engine was causing the problem and answered: "It's the left... it's the right one."

Mr Tomlinson asked: "Having thought about it can you explain how the number two engine was shut down?" "I can't. I have given it a great deal of thought since the event and I have no information that can give an answer to your question."

Earlier, British Midland's chief pilot, Captain Robert Hardy, told the inquest that he did not accept that the new electronic instruments in the 737-400 were difficult to read. Captain Hunt will give evidence today.

Life-jacket design criticized

A FRESH look at the way life-jackets are designed was recommended yesterday in the official report on a Sikorsky helicopter that ditched in the North Sea in November 1988.

The two crewmen and 11 passengers were rescued, but the Air Accidents Investigation Branch report found that several passengers had difficulty finding their life-jacket inflation toggle, neither pilot could find the operating lever for his escape exit, most survival suits leaked, and the passenger address system proved inadequate.

The report said the Civil Aviation Authority should review the design and packing of life-jackets to ensure the inflation toggle was correctly presented, and make sure there was an effective means of communication between crew and passengers.

The Sikorsky, owned by British International Helicopters, had been returning to Aberdeen after collecting passengers from three North Sea oil installations.

Solent fortress for £5¼m

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

No Man's Land Fort, a Napoleonic fort rising 60ft out of the waters of the Solent between Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight, is one man's Utopia. Estate agents who misrepresents property will in future be liable to heavy penalties under proposed legislation, but Knight Frank & Rutley, who are selling this "des res", are unlikely to fall foul of the rules by describing the fort as the "ultimate in luxurious island homes".

On behalf of the owner Roger Penfold, who has spent 2½ years converting a derelict lump of stone and armour plating into the most extraordinary estate, the agents are asking £5.75 million. The price includes a helicopter (there are three pads on the gun deck), several boats and a crew of seven.

The fort took 20 years and £462,500 (worth £20 million now) to build from 1860 when the fear of a French invasion was worrying Prime Minister Palmerston and Queen Victoria. It housed 49 guns and 400 men in those days, and in the Second World War, was an anti-aircraft base. The Min-

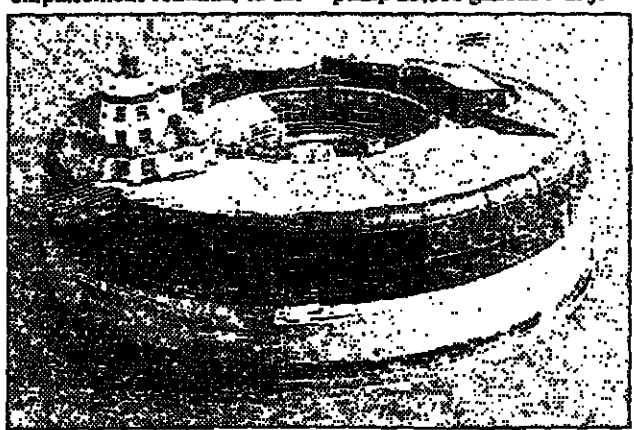
istry of Defence offered it for sale in 1986, and Mr Penfold, aged 44, a property developer, bought it for an estimated £300,000. He has since spent £3 million converting the fort into a sumptuous home.

Some 6,500 tonnes of armour plating have been removed, including the 34-tonne front door, and it now has several huge reception rooms, with a newly built three-bedroomed "lighthouse" home on the top deck.

On that deck one gun emplacement remains, to sat-

isfy the requirements of the fort's status as an ancient monument, while a tennis court takes up one corner and a clay pigeon stand has been erected next to the helicopter pads. Part of the inside circle has become a swimming pool, and there is a music room with a grand piano.

No Man's Land Fort is a self-contained village, with an electricity generator capable of lighting a small town, and fresh water coming from a 625ft borehole and able to pump 23,000 gallons a day.



Place apart: A sumptuous "des res" in the waves

Minister voices support for choristers

By David Tytler
Education Editor

LET the heavenly voices sing... with temporal support and a little help from the girls. The choir schools, which are facing hard times as too few boys apply to fill the stalls, were yesterday offered possible financial help and advised to allow girls to join.

Mrs Angela Rumbold, Minister of State for Education and Science, is to seek parliamentary approval to give the schools £20,000 of Government money annually as from next year, to help families afford the fees of about £1,400 a term. Parents of choristers pay a third of

the full fees, but Mrs Rumbold wants to find the extra £20,000 a year from the allowances already paid to special schools for music and ballet. Anxious to avoid a wrong note, she made it clear that even that depended on the approval of her colleagues in the Government. In the interests of harmony she sympathized with the choristers.

"There may be some misconceptions among the general public about choristers, perhaps to view them as unnaturally docile, well-behaved and biddable. How far from the truth that is likely to be," she said.

"These children have to be responsible individuals, ambitious for perfection

and able to withstand the rigours of a demanding foreign tour with a heavy schedule of performances."

Mrs Rumbold told the annual conference of the Choir Schools' Association in York: "Parents inevitably have to lose their children for periods of time and perform chauffeur duties even more frequently than other parents."

Turning to the question of girls singing in the cathedrals, Mrs Rumbold said: "Almost all choir school choristers are boys. I am rather keen on enhanced opportunities for girls generally. Girls could 'form a parallel choir which could share some of the onerous duties of the existing choristers'."

Virulent meningitis strain 'might be spreading'

By Thomson Prestice
Science Correspondent

A PUZZLING series of meningitis outbreaks in Gloucestershire has been caused by a bacterial strain found almost nowhere else in Britain, scientists have discovered. The strain, which has caused 150 cases of the disease, including seven deaths, in the Stroud area of the county in the past eight years, is more virulent than any other and might be spreading to new areas.

The finding, reported in *The Lancet*, is an important step forward and could lead to improved control of the disease and be helpful in the development of a vaccine against it,

the scientists said yesterday. Dr Keith Cartwright, of the public health laboratory in Gloucester, and Dr John Knight, microbiologist at Surrey University, used genetic engineering techniques to identify the strain.

"The reasons for the outbreaks in this area is either because the local population is more susceptible to the disease or because of a particularly virulent organism. We tend to believe it is the latter," Dr Cartwright said.

"We are carrying out further research. There must be something in the strain that causes some people

to become immune, otherwise we would have many more cases. That suggests that it could be possible eventually to develop a vaccine against it."

Dr Knight said: "We hope our work will help to identify carriers of the strain and give us a better national picture of the movement of the disease."

The national incidence of meningococcal meningitis has been about one case per 100,000 of the population, but the rate has been at least five times as high in the Gloucester health district since outbreaks began there in 1982. In small areas of the county, particularly around Stroud,

it has reached 56 cases per 100,000. The disease is most likely to affect children aged about three or four, or adolescents, and strikes with devastating speed. The meningococcal bacteria are carried in the noses and throats of about one in 10 of the population, and are spread by carriers coughing or sneezing.

When the bacteria enter the bloodstream they can produce inflammation of the meninges, the membranes around the brain and spinal cord. Early treatment with antibiotics is highly effective, but the disease can cause death or disability. The researchers identified the same strain, a subtype of what is

known as B15/16R, among sufferers in Plymouth, where there has also been a high rate of the condition. "The strain is clearly both persistent and of high virulence compared with strain isolated from the rest of the UK," the doctors say in *The Lancet*.

They add that the prolonged and continuing nature of the outbreaks in Gloucestershire suggests that it might spread throughout the country, and the identification of the identical strain in Plymouth is evidence that this may already be happening. However, it appears that the strain is not easily transmitted from person to person.

Students stage poll tax protest

By Ray Clancy

STUDENTS at Magdalen College, Oxford, burned their poll tax forms and released hundreds of coloured balloons, in a gesture of defiance against the community charge yesterday.

In the city where there had been fervent support for the peasants' revolt of 1381 over the "first poll tax" more than 200 students gathered under the tower to take part in a peaceful protest.

It was only when the Rev Peter Sutcliffe, chairman of the national Poll Tax Forum, an organization representing church groups, charities and voluntary bodies, stood up to speak that the anti-government chants began.

"Maggie, Maggie, Maggie. Out, Out, Out," the students shouted, gently.

To resounding cheers Mr Sutcliffe said: "Violence has no place in a democratic society" but added that the government should take note that many "law-abiding people have been led to invoke the doctrine of civil disobedience" in the face of the poll tax.

As students prepared to burn their poll tax demands he said: "Burning heretical publications like poll tax forms has an honoured place in the history of protest. It ranks alongside nailing theses to Cathedral doors."

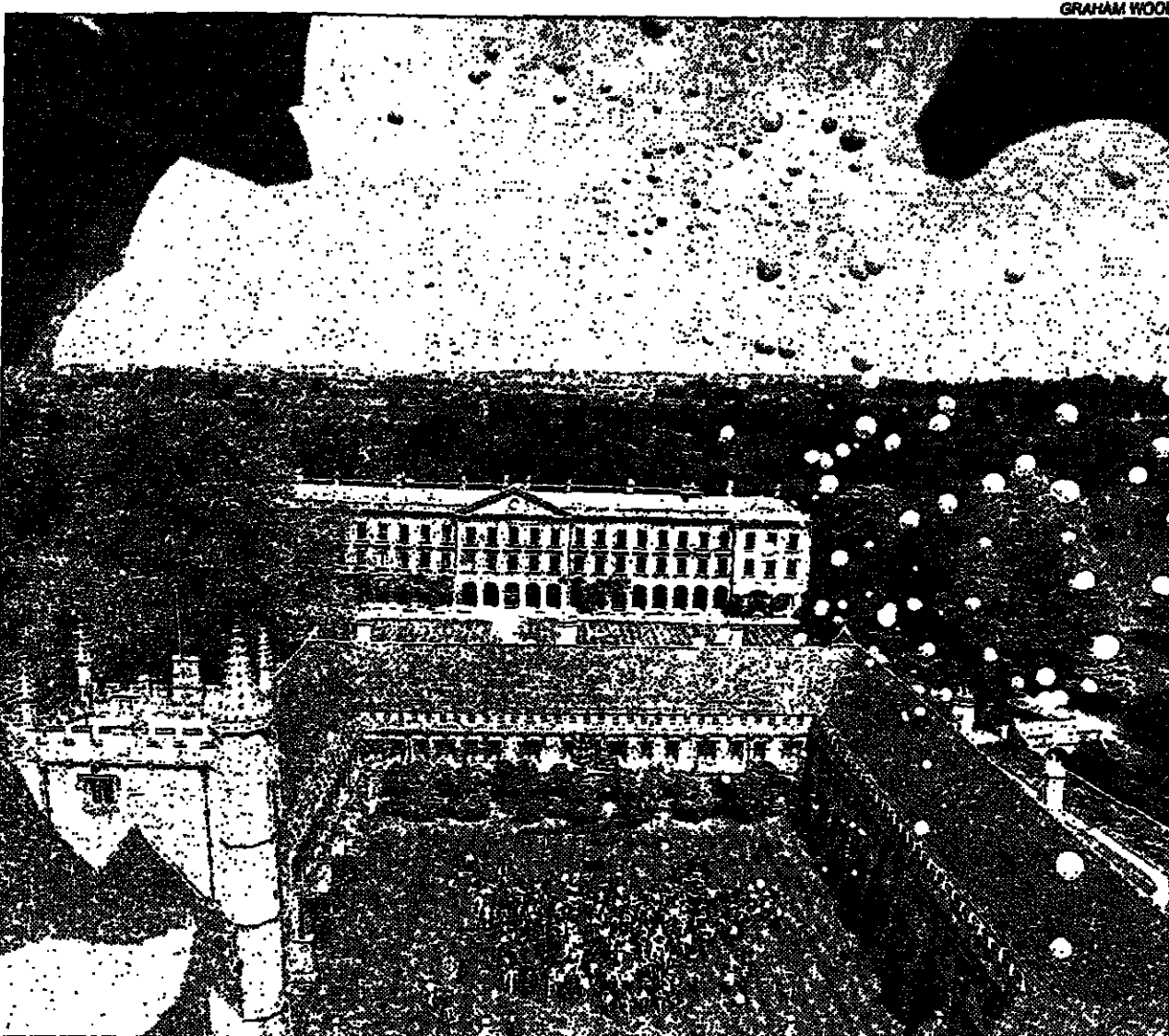
Staff and fellows of the college joined the students in their protest. "There can be no doubt this is a monstrous tax. That any government should so brazenly introduce a flat-rate tax on everybody is beyond the absurd," said Mr Michael Dummett, Professor of Logic at New College.

He added that Oxford had a tradition of opposing unjust moves by the government including the increase in fees for overseas students.

A recent poll conducted for the university's newspaper

Cherwell found 83 per cent of students disapproved of the poll tax of which 44 per cent said they would "obstruct" payment. Only 11.5 per cent said they would be paying the tax.

Staff strike, page 7



Airborne protest: Students in the quadrangle of Magdalen College sending poll tax views skywards

Three acquitted in EC fraud case

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

One of the largest cases involving alleged EC fraud brought by customs investigators in recent years collapsed yesterday through lack of evidence. Customs now face a bill of up to £700,000 in costs.

Mr Justice Evans made the order at Winchester Crown Court after telling a jury they must acquit two meat companies and three of their directors accused of conspiracy to evade liability by deception over exported cargoes of boneless frozen beef between November 1983 and May 1986.

Mr Chone Dredzen, aged 60, of Warwick Square, south-west London, managing director of Combined Foods; Mr

Terence Ogborn, aged 45, of Tadworth, Surrey, managing director of Meats Ltd, and Mr Anthony Ogborn, aged 32, of Danbury, Essex, a Director of Meats were all discharged.

The Ogborns and their company were granted defence costs from central funds and costs against customs for the whole of their trial. Mr Dredzen was granted three-quarters of his costs against customs and defence costs incurred since February this year. The charges against Customs and Excise have still to be assessed but could reach £700,000.

The case, scheduled to last up to six weeks, collapsed after two days of legal submissions.

Solicitors back training scheme

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

PROPOSALS for overhauling solicitors' training, including abolishing the existing finals examination, won initial backing from leaders of the profession yesterday.

The council of the Law Society endorsed by a three-to-one majority plans for a new course that takes greater account of skills needed by a practising solicitor and has less emphasis on rote-learning.

At the heart of scheme is a shift in responsibility for assessing students from the profession itself to the institutions running the course: the five-branch College of Law and several polytechnics.

A number of solicitors feared that if responsibility for the examination were devolved, standards would fall or be inconsistent, but their concerns were allayed by an amendment requiring the society's training committee to put forward proposals for monitoring the way the institutions assess students. The new training scheme would not be implemented until 1993.

After the debate, Mr John Hayes, the Law Society secretary general, said there were two tasks to be undertaken. One was to convince the profession that any changes would not lower standards and the other was to work out a system that would leave the institutions feeling satisfied that they were running a training scheme that would be the envy of the world.

One member from the City law firms, which were highly critical of the original proposals, said: "The City firms, as trainers of nearly 30 per cent of the annual intake to the profession, were content that the system had been approved in principle." However, there was a need to ensure that the Law Society could bring in a system of monitoring that would ensure consistent standards.

Dentist burnt woman's tongue

A dentist who burnt a woman's tongue as he drilled into the wrong tooth was found guilty of 11 charges of serious professional misconduct yesterday.

The General Dental Council was told how Mrs Sylvia Tyson found an "indent" on her tongue after visiting Mr Martin Cowan's Liverpool surgery in October 1986.

Mr Cowan, a self-confessed workaholic who worked in five dental practices, was ordered to go back to dental school to do post-graduate training after he admitted his excessive hours had affected his work.

Mrs Tyson told the hearing she froze with horror when he started drilling. "I shut my eyes and was holding on to the arms of the chair. The smell was terrible and I was coughing. The only thing I could associate it with was the smell of burning flesh."

Mrs Tyson, of Ramsey Road, Liverpool, had gone to the dentist complaining of an abscess on the upper left side of her mouth. The dentist, however, gave her a crown on the lower right side. She said that, when she went home, "there was a grey mark on my tongue, it was an indent and it was giving me a good deal of pain."

Mr Cowan said he had no recollection of burning Mrs Tyson's mouth. "It is possible that I might have touched the edge of her tongue but I really can't remember."

He denied operating on the wrong tooth, claiming the crown was a trial run so that she could see what it looked like in preparation for four front teeth being crowned. "I thought if I did the crown she could then see what crowns are like."

Mr Cowan was found guilty of 11 charges of serious professional misconduct and cleared of three others relating to treatment of five patients.

Mr Cowan, aged 40, said: "I am a workaholic and was involved with five practices. It put a lot of pressure on my dental knowledge and I just wasn't up to it."

Professor David Mason, the president of the General Dental Council said: "The committee wishes you to be in no doubt that the standard of conduct proved, falls far below that of a professional man. The committee has considered carefully whether you are a fit person to remain on the dental register. The committee hopes that this hearing has had a salutary effect."

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Thatcher cleared Rifkind statement on steel job losses

By Richard Ford and Kerry Gill

MR MALCOLM Rifkind made clear yesterday that he would not resign as Secretary of State for Scotland as his position came under question in the wake of British Steel's decision to close the Ravenscraig strip mill in Motherwell, with the loss of 770 jobs.

As Labour sought to exploit the apparent division between the Scottish Office and the Department of Trade and Industry over the closure, sources close to Mr Rifkind said his statement to the Commons on Wednesday had been agreed with the Prime Minister.

Mr Rifkind, who was already under pressure after the dispute over backdating of the Budget poll tax rebate and speculation that he might be replaced by his deputy, Mr Michael Forsyth, has won the backing of most of Scotland's 10 Conservative MPs. Six have signed an Opposition Early Day Motion urging British Steel to reverse its "catastrophic decision" to close the strip mill and calling on all Scottish MPs to unite in opposing the decision.

The Scottish Office played down differences with the

Department of Trade and Industry over the closure, insisting it was entitled to make its views known, in much the same way as it did when Ford decided against building a plant at Dundee after failing to reach a single-union agreement. The Department of Trade and Industry said that as British Steel was a private company it was entitled to make such decisions on commercial grounds.

Union leaders at Ravenscraig voted yesterday to organize a campaign to save the strip mill, but ruled out taking industrial action. Mr Tommy Brennan, the shop stewards' convener, said: "That does not save plants. Industrial action conducted by a union on a national basis can put pressure on people, but, in isolation, it will never be part of our thoughts. Our aim will be to put pressure on both the Government and British Steel."

Mr Rifkind is expected to meet Mr Brennan early next week, and an emergency meeting of the all-party steel group, backed by Strathclyde regional council and the Scot-

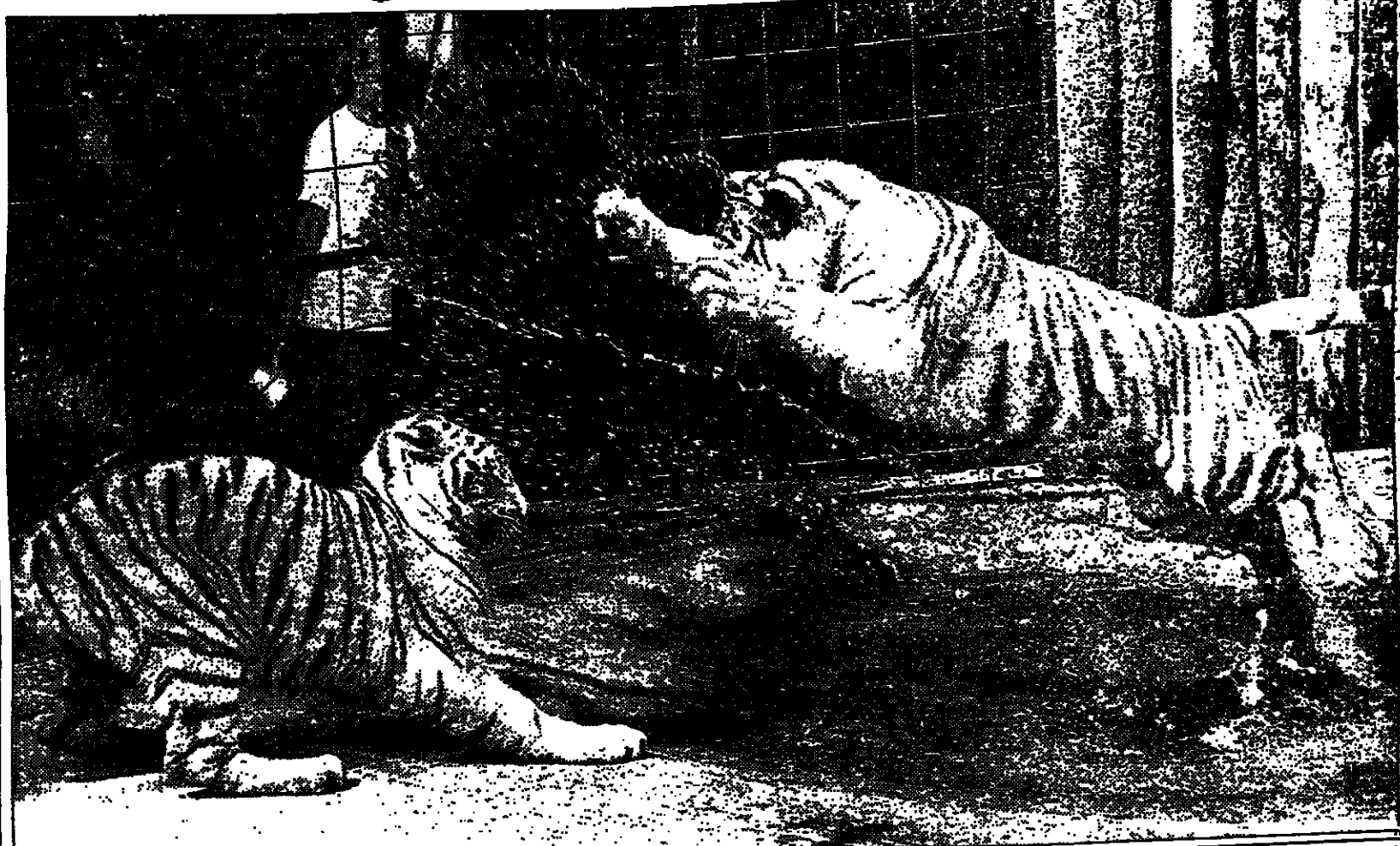
tish TUC, will be held in Glasgow tomorrow. Mr Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, will attend.

Mr Jim Sillars, the SNP MP for Govan, said his party would fight for an independent Scottish steel industry and against test bores for possible nuclear waste dumping in Caithness. "This is a fight for Scotland's survival," he said. "What is proposed is industrial and environmental genocide. No other nation... would take these humiliations lying down, especially from a colonial Government they never even voted for."

The nationalists are to cancel their annual rally at Bannockburn next month, replacing it with a national demonstration of "Scottish people power" in Edinburgh on June 24.

Mr Iain Lawson, the party's spokesman on steel, said there was no point in pleading with Sir Robert Scholey, the British Steel chairman, to change his mind. "Only independence for Scottish steel will give our steelworkers, and the heart of our industrial economy, any future," he said.

White tiger brothers burning bright



SANJAY and Simba, the only Bengal white tigers in this country, being fed by Mary Chipperfield at Longleat safari park yesterday. The two 12-month-old tiger brothers — flown this week from Columbus Zoo, Ohio, where they were born — are to be mates for the female tigers at Longleat as part of a breeding project. "It's great news for the project," Mr Roger Cawley, manager of Longleat, said. "They are settling in well." The new arrivals will spend six months in quarantine, but on view to visitors, within the tiger reserve before being introduced to the group. There are about only 50 white tigers, all of them in captivity.

Prince calls for united effort to save rain forests

By Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales identified three clear culprits yesterday when he joined the debate on saving tropical rain forests with a trenchant address to an environmental conference in London staged by the pressure group Friends of the Earth.

His first was the United States, thinly disguised behind a reference to "some Western politicians", which is accused of reluctance to finance sustainable development in the Third World. His second was developed countries such as Britain, which have yet to put their own ecological house in order, and his third was corrupt Third World politicians who salt away aid money into private Swiss bank accounts.

The Prince shared a platform, and many ideas, with Dr José Lutzenberger, the Brazilian special environment secretary, who promised the conference that his country's new government was committed to saving the Amazon forest. Speaking shortly after

the end of the Bergen conference on sustainable development, the Prince said: "It still seems to have escaped the attention of some Western politicians that it is literally impossible to control the emission of greenhouse gases, to eliminate the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, let alone to protect the remaining rain forest, without the active co-operation of the Third World."

"That co-operation is not likely to be forthcoming unless we do everything in our power to put substantial additional financial backing behind the concept of sustainable development."

Criticizing developed countries which liked to "wear their green heart on their sleeve", the Prince said they could not go on taking other countries to task when they themselves seemed incapable of protecting their own ecosystems. "In their own way, lowland peat bogs in Britain are as special a habitat as the rain forest, and the utterly unsustainable commercial utilization to which they are exposed is as bad, in its own way, as the burning of the rain forest or unsustainable logging operations."

It was equally true, the Prince said, that Third World countries should not be too strident in their denunciation of Western banks until they were prepared to do something about the huge problem of "flight capital" — the illegal movement of vast sums of money out of countries. "No one knows the sums involved, but one contribution to flight capital is corruption. The environmental consequences of such corruption on a vast scale are immense in many countries," he said.

At the two-day conference, being held at the Royal Geographical Society, the Prince was followed to the rostrum by Dr Lutzenberger, appointed by the recently installed President Collor of Brazil to take responsibility for saving the Amazon rain forest. He too criticized the present US administration for wanting more information before it committed money to Third World forest projects.

"The Americans take the position that we need more information to act. The information has always been there, but the political will was not. Now the political will is there," Dr Lutzenberger said.

Clean-up foundation launched

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

A FOUNDATION to provide councils, charities, environmental groups and residents' associations with technical solutions to environmental problems, was launched yesterday by the BOC Group, the former British Oxygen Corporation.

The foundation, which is being set up with an initial grant of £1 million, is calling on environmental groups and organizations to submit proposals for air, water and land pollution schemes in Britain that need technical advice.

The company and the foundation's officials said the new body would bridge a crucial gap between worldwide technological remedies for ecological problems and the people and groups seeking to solve them.

BOC's products are used worldwide in environmental recovery programmes including the oxygenization of "dead" lakes and also on the Thames.

'Unjust' sentence cannot be quashed

A MAN jailed for his first offence, a £300 theft, was told by two High Court judges yesterday that he was a victim of injustice, but must still go to prison.

The judges said the court was powerless to help Gary McCann, aged 34, of New North Road, Islington, north London. His plea for an order quashing his sentence was dismissed with "considerable reluctance". McCann was led away to serve a 90-day sentence imposed by a magistrate in Woolwich, south London, in March last year for stealing property worth about £300 from former employers.

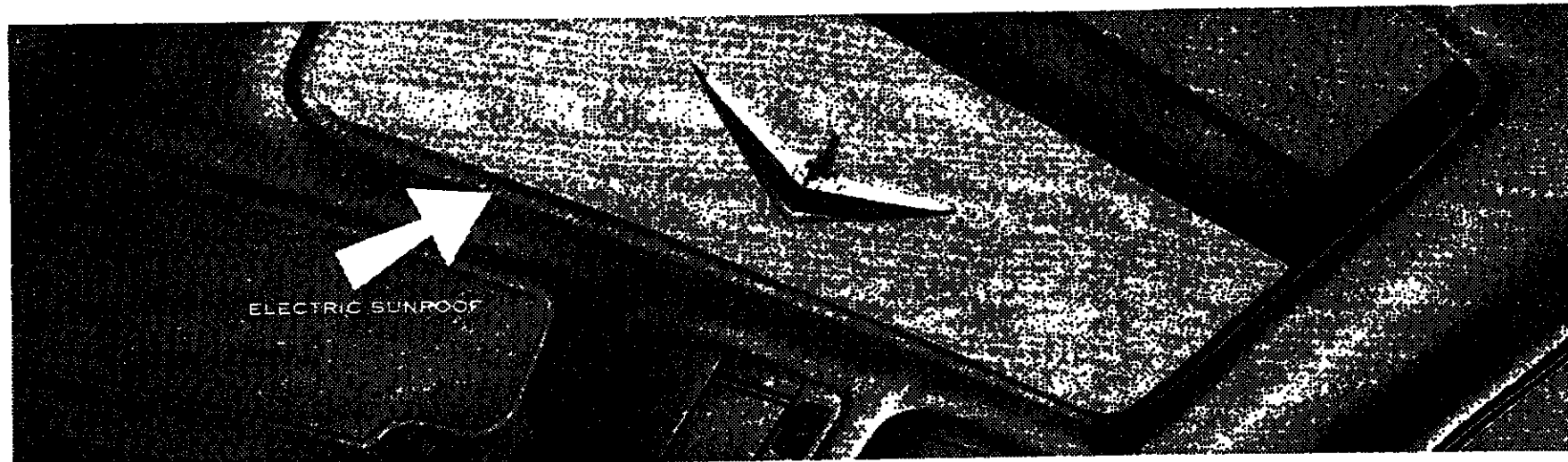
Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Potts, said the situation was "very, very unsatisfactory" and the court would take an unusual step in an attempt to have McCann released. He said the court would invite the prison authorities to use what powers

they had so that McCann could be released "if not forthwith, then as soon as possible thereafter".

Lord Justice Watkins said the magistrate had taken the "surprising" decision to jail McCann, a man of previous good character who had pleaded guilty, in spite of reports favouring a community service order. He said that, although an injustice had undoubtedly been demonstrated, no point of law was violated either in the magistrates' court or the crown court. The High Court had limited jurisdiction over cases in which a sentence appeal from a magistrates' court had been heard in a crown court. McCann lost an appeal to Inner London Crown Court against the sentence last May.

Lord Justice Watkins said the High Court was powerless unless a point of law was involved.

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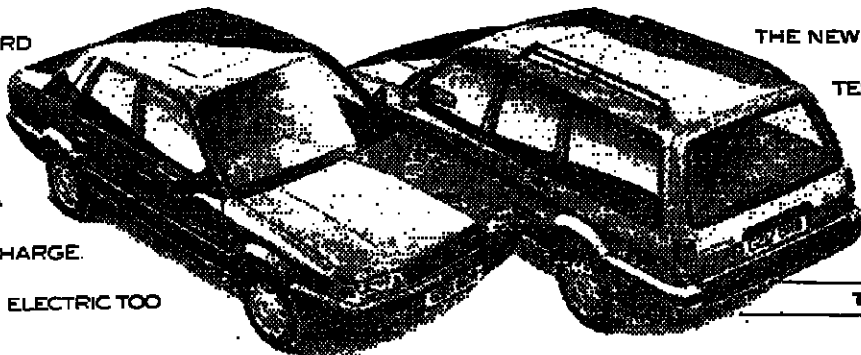
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The man with an onerous mission

Strike leaders must be named

A VOTING paper in a trade union ballot for industrial action will in future have to show the names of the union officials authorised to call for the industrial action.

A government proposal to that effect was carried in the Commons last night by 201 votes to 149 - Government majority, 52, during the report stage of the Employment Bill.

Mr Michael Howard, Secretary of State for Employment, said the proposal would enhance democratic practice.

It was thanks to this Government's legislation that they had seen an end to the practice of union leaders calling members out on strike without giving them an opportunity to express their views, or after sham democratic procedures, with a show of hands in a car park when intimidation and irregularly introduced accompanied such performances.

Mr Tony Blair, chief Opposition spokesman on employment, said that the clause was unnecessary, it would land trade unions in interminable legal wrangles and was a recipe for chaos.

It had been introduced without any consultation or discussion, it had not been the subject of any white or green paper and it had not been mentioned in committee. The only reason for it was political meddling. "There is one reason and only one why this is here to put a further burden on the trade unions."

Beware of false experts on BSE, House is told

THOSE who pontificated on television about "mad cow" disease should send any scientific material they had to the expert Tyrrell committee which is studying the problem, Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, said in the Commons yesterday.

He hoped that the BBC, ITV and others would ask before interviewing people as "experts" whether they had published in journals which their peers could check or if they had submitted evidence to the Tyrrell committee.

If they had not, he hoped they would not be introduced as experts but merely as people with an idea or two.

Answering questions about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), he said: "There is certainly no justification for the alarmist reporting that has appeared over the last few days."

Mr Gummer said that the Government had tackled the problem of BSE with a carefully considered and coherent programme of measures based upon the advice of the most authoritative and independent scientific experts.

Any animal found to have BSE was destroyed and no part of it entered the food chain. Cattle entering the slaughter-

FOOD SCARE

house had the specified offals, which could harbour the agent, removed.

Almost two years ago, the Government had cut off the ruminant protein to cows and other ruminants. Thus, what was considered to be the source of the infection was cut off.

"In all this, we have followed the best independent scientific advice available. Even our critics must follow this policy of taking that advice. The health of the public is our overriding concern."

There were always those who wanted the Government to take their advice and not the advice of the experts.

Some had suggested a ban on breeding from the offspring of BSE cattle. But the Southwood committee had not recommended that. Concerned to ensure that all up-to-date information was taken into account, he had referred the question back to the expert Tyrrell committee. It confirmed fully what Southwood had said.

"We have taken action to deal with the public health concerns and the animal health aspect of BSE on the basis of the best independent scientific advice."

"We have published that advice with full information on the disease. We shall continue to

keep the public fully informed. We have taken all necessary measures to tackle this disease.

"As the Chief Medical Officer has confirmed, British beef can continue to be eaten safely by everyone, adults and children."

Mr Andrew Mitchell (Gedling, C) asked him to eschew the quick solutions and fixes suggested in recent days.

Mr Gerald Howells, Liberal Democrat spokesman on agriculture, said that the irresponsible statements made over the past fortnight without any proof or evidence had caused a great deal of concern.

Mr Paul Marland (West Gloucestershire, C) said that it was outrageous that so many unsubstantiated claims had been made about BSE and British beef. Labour MPs were flying the flag of science, preferring to be guided by a bogus professor and a dead cat.

Mr Gummer said that those who sought to make capital out of the perfectly natural concern of the public ought to look at their motives most carefully.

Sir Hector Moore (Dumfries, C) asked him to contact all local authorities which had banned British beef.

Mr Gummer said that he sent all local authorities a background briefing. Westminster City Council first banned beef without considering any of the evidence. "Once they considered the evidence, beef went straight back on to the menu."

Dr David Clark, Opposition spokesman on food, agriculture and rural affairs, said that Mr Gummer's indecision and vacillation this week had brought a loss of confidence among the public in beef and had threatened the long-term future of the cattle industry. Why not implement the recommendation of the Tyrrell committee and have a random sample of routinely slaughtered cows so that the extent of BSE could be known and plans made accordingly?

Mr Gummer said that the Tyrrell recommendations concerned research.

Tyrrell had set his recommendations in three groups: high priority research; priority research; low priority research. He (Mr Gummer) had instituted all research of high priority and was now going through low priority research. He had followed that order of priorities because the committee had suggested it and also because there was a shortage of experts to do the research.



Rifkind 'has full cabinet support'

RAVENS CRAIG

THERE was no rift between Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, and the rest of the Cabinet over the Government's attitude to the proposed closure of the Ravenscraig hot strip mill, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Leader of the House, told MPs. Earlier, he had announced a debate on Monday on the closure.

Mr Rifkind had the full support of the Government and government policies were the same for all ministers, Sir Geoffrey said in response to calls for Mr Rifkind to explain his position.

The decision to close the strip mill was a matter for the commercial judgement of British Steel, but any member was entitled to raise matters which might bear upon that commercial judgement.

Dr John Cunningham, shadow Leader of the House, asked if it could be made clear who would be speaking for the Government during Monday's debate and exactly what the Government's policy was. A different story was being told by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary

of State for Trade and Industry, about the Government's attitude from that which had been heard from Mr Rifkind on Wednesday. "There should be a clear statement of the Government's policy on the Scottish steel industry, who is deciding that policy and whether the position of the Secretary of State has now become untenable."

Mr James Wallace, Liberal Democrat spokesman on the economy, said that in the previous day's debate, Mr Rifkind had said: "We shall seek to persuade British Steel to reconsider its decision in the interests of the company and its workforce". Would that be the policy of the Government?

Sir Geoffrey Howe said that the decision had been taken by British Steel in the light of market conditions; that must remain for its judgement. Members concerned, whether in the Government or not, could bring forward commercial arguments for a review of that decision.

Terror bomb by 'sick minds'

PRIME MINISTER

MR NEIL Kinnock and the Prime Minister joined in a condemnation of the IRA bombing at Wembley on Wednesday and earlier in the week at Eitham.

Later, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said that she could not be confident of extradition proceedings succeeding if those suspected of the bombing went to the Irish Republic in the belief that they would find safe haven there.

Mr Kinnock said that the whole House was united in its condemnation of the terrorist bombings and would want to offer condolences to the family of Sergeant Charles Chapman, who had been murdered yesterday, and to the injured people.

"I say once again that no government formed from either side of this House will ever concede to violence," Mrs Thatcher said. "I agree very much with him that the vicious and sick minds that plan and execute these attacks bring shame and discredit on themselves and their cause and all who associate with and support them."

They all have a full democratic vote that they can exercise in the same way as everyone else and yet, because they do not like the result, they try to bomb and main people [to get themselves] out of it."

The Government would do all in its power to fight the vicious attacks here and in Northern Ireland.

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) asked whether the two terrorist attacks in London had been accompanied by equal condemnation from ministers in the Irish Government.

"If those suspected of responsibility for these attacks in London escape to the Irish Republic in the belief, understandably, that they would find safe haven there," he said, "how confident is she that a proper request for extradition would be upheld by the Irish Supreme Court?"

Mrs Thatcher replied that she wished that she could answer Mr Gow that she would be confident that an extradition order would be upheld, "but I cannot do so, as he knows."

"We must be able to extradite people so that they have no safe haven in the Republic."

It was vital for the police and everyone in Britain and Northern Ireland that the Prevention of Terrorism Act should be fully supported.

Labour costs rising quickly

The United Kingdom's unit labour costs are rising more quickly than those of any of its competitors, Mrs Thatcher said at questions.

Mr Christopher Mallin (Sunderland South, Lab) said that in Tokyo on Monday Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, had boasted that Britain had some of the cheapest labour costs in Western Europe.

Mrs Thatcher said that she was giving the latest figures from the past year. In Japan and Germany, unit labour costs were static, in the United States they were up by only 2 per cent and in France had fallen by 2 per cent. In the UK, they had risen by 5 per cent. "That means taking out more in pay than we are putting in in productivity."

Parliament next week

Parliament rises for the spring recess on Thursday. The House of Commons will return on June 5, but the House of Lords returns a day earlier when peers will debate the War Crimes Bill.

The main business in the Commons next week is:

Monday: Debates on Opposition motions on Ravenscraig and on BSE. Tuesday: Debate on Liberal Democrat motion on the poll tax.

Wednesday: Motion for the spring recess. Thursday: Adjournment debates.

The main business in the Lords is expected to be: Monday: Social Security Bill, committee, first day. Australian Constitution (Public Record Copy) Bill, second reading.

Tuesday: Social Security Bill, committee, second day. Wednesday: Debates on civil liberties and on population growth.

Thursday: Law reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill and Aviation and Maritime Security Bill, third readings.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on Channel rail links.

Lords (11): Environmental Protection Bill, second reading.

Umpire on Centre Court

WHEN Mr Bernard Weatherill became Speaker of the House of Commons seven years ago he was hardly known to the public beyond his constituency of Croydon North East. But in a few months he has shot to television stardom.

Most of his parliamentary career had been spent in the whips' office and, because whips rarely speak in the chamber, few outside Westminster had heard of the master tailor from the south London suburb. Now he is known to millions as the man trying to keep order in a frequently disorderly House.

In an interview with Central Television last night, Mr Weatherill spoke about what the cameras in the Commons have meant to him and to the chamber in general.

He believes that they have stimulated public interest in the legislature. One letter he has



received said that Parliament was as addictive as Dallas. "I hope that is a compliment," he said.

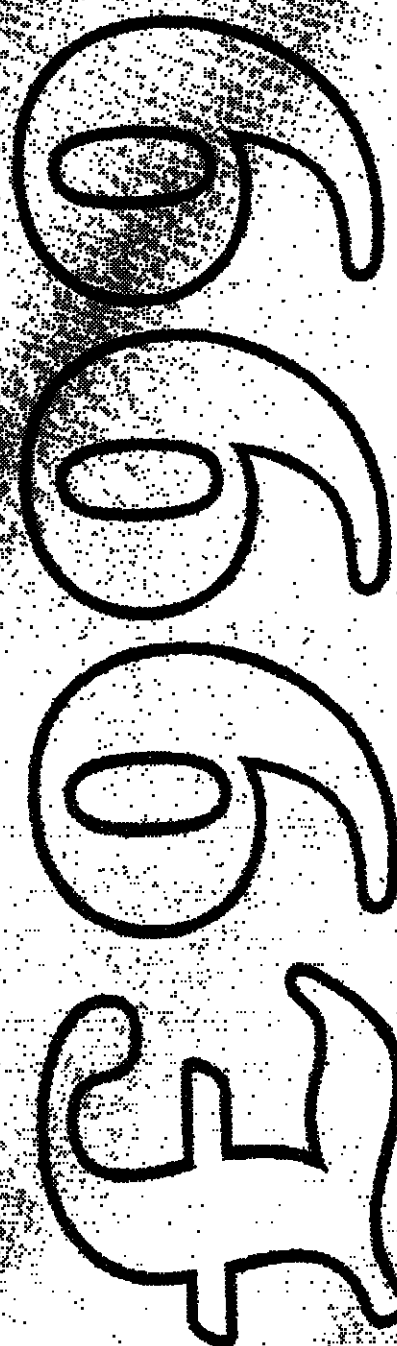
He compares it, however, not

with a soap opera but with a sporting event, Wimbledon in particular. When the top seeds are on the court at the All England Club, the atmosphere is electric, he said. In the Commons, during Prime Minister's question time, the atmosphere is equally electric.

Mr Weatherill rejects the claim that he is the star attraction. "My stars are on the floor of the House," he said. "I have a role as a conductor of the orchestra of this show. I ensure that we get the best from the actors on the stage. It is high drama, it is high action and it is high concentration. I am not a star myself."

He is adamant about Parliament not changing for the benefit of the cameras. "Television has got to adapt to us," he said. "We are not in the entertainment business. We are a very effective workshop."

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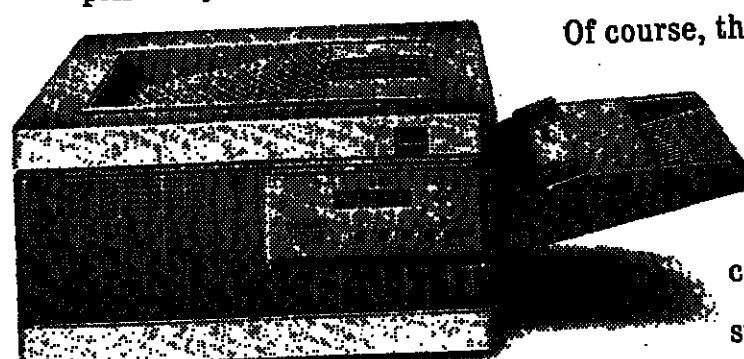
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Thatcher cleared Rifkind statement on steel job losses

By Richard Ford and Kerry Gill

MR MALCOLM Rifkind made clear yesterday that he would not resign as Secretary of State for Scotland as his position came under question in the wake of British Steel's decision to close the Ravenscraig strip mill in Motherwell, with the loss of 770 jobs.

As Labour sought to exploit the apparent division between the Scottish Office and Department of Trade and Industry over the closure, sources close to Mr Rifkind said his statement to the Commons on Wednesday had been agreed with the Prime Minister.

Mr Rifkind, who was already under pressure after the dispute over backdating of the Budget poll tax rebate and speculation that he might be replaced by his deputy, Mr Michael Forsyth, has won the backing of most of Scotland's 10 Conservative MPs. Six have signed an Opposition Early Day Motion urging British Steel to reverse its "catastrophic decision" to close the strip mill and calling on all Scottish MPs to unite in opposing the decision.

The Scottish Office played down differences with the

Department of Trade and Industry over the closure, insisting it was entitled to make its views known in much the same way as it did when Ford decided against building a plant at Dundee after failing to reach a single-union agreement. The Department of Trade and Industry said that as British Steel was a private company it was entitled to make such decisions on commercial grounds.

Union leaders at Ravenscraig voted yesterday to organize a campaign to save the strip mill, but ruled out taking industrial action. Mr Tommy Brennan, the shop stewards' convener, said: "That does not save plants. Industrial action conducted by a union on a national basis can put pressure on people, but, in isolation, it will never be part of our thoughts. Our aim will be to put pressure on both the Government and British Steel."

Mr Rifkind is expected to meet Mr Brennan early next week, and an emergency meeting of the all-party steel group, backed by Strathclyde regional council and the Scot-

tish TUC, will be held in Glasgow tomorrow. Mr Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservatives, will attend.

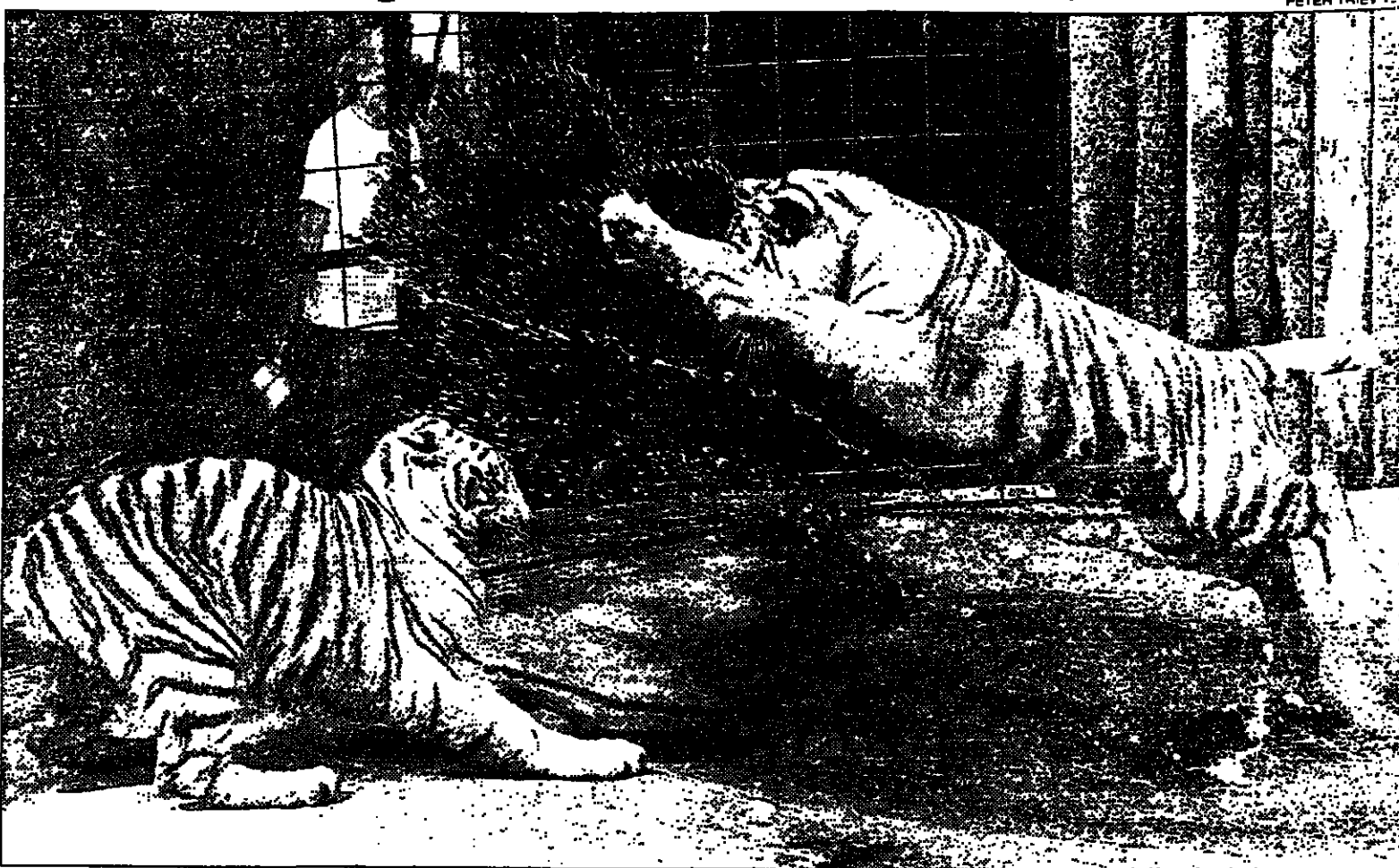
Mr Jim Sillars, the SNP MP for Govan, said his party would fight for an independent Scottish steel industry and against test bores for possible nuclear waste dumping in Scotland. "This is a fight for Scotland's survival," he said. "What is proposed is industrial and environmental genocide. No other nation would take these humiliations lying down, especially from a colonial Government they never even voted for."

The nationalists are to cancel their annual rally at Bannockburn next month, replacing it with a national demonstration of "Scottish people power" in Edinburgh on June 24.

Mr Iain Lawson, the party's spokesman on steel, said there was no point in pleading with Sir Robert Scholey, the British Steel chairman, to change his mind. "Only independence for Scottish steel will give our steelworkers, and the heart of our industrial economy, any future," he said.

White tiger brothers burning bright

PETER TRIVETT



SANJAY and Sima, the only Bengal white tigers in this country, being fed by Mary Chipperfield at Longleat safari park yesterday. The two 12-month-old tiger brothers - flown this week from Columbus Zoo, Ohio, where they were born - are to be mated for the female tigers at Longleat as part of a breeding

project. "It's great news for the project," Mr Roger Cawley, manager of Longleat, said. "They are settling in well." The new arrivals will spend six months in quarantine, but on view to visitors, within the tiger reserve before being introduced to the group. There are about only 50 white tigers, all of them in captivity.

Prince calls for united effort to save rain forests

By Alan Hamilton

THE Prince of Wales identified three clear culprits yesterday when he joined the debate on saving tropical rain forests with a trenchant address to an environmental conference in London staged by the pressure group Friends of the Earth.

His first was the United States, thinly disguised behind a reference to "some Western politicians", which is accused of reluctance to finance sustainable development in the Third World. His second was developed countries such as Britain, which have yet to put their own ecological house in order, and his third was corrupt Third World politicians who salt away aid money into private Swiss bank accounts.

The Prince shared a platform, and many ideas, with Dr José Lutzenberger, the Brazilian special environment secretary, who promised the conference that his country's new government was committed to saving the Amazon forest. Speaking shortly after

the end of the Bergen conference on sustainable development, the Prince said: "It still seems to have escaped the attention of some Western politicians that it is literally impossible to control the emission of greenhouse gases, to eliminate the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, let alone to protect the remaining rain forest, without the active co-operation of the Third World."

"That co-operation is not likely to be forthcoming unless we do everything in our power to put substantial additional financial backing behind the concept of sustainable development."

Criticizing developed countries which liked to "wear their green heart on their sleeve", the Prince said they could not go on taking other countries to task when they themselves seemed incapable of protecting their own ecosystems. "In their own way, lowland peat bogs in Britain are as special a habitat as the rain forest, and the utterly unsustainable commercial utilization to which they are exposed is as bad, in its own way, as the burning of the rain forest or unsustainable logging operations."

It was equally true, the Prince said, that Third World countries should not be too strident in their denunciation of Western banks until they were prepared to do something about the huge problem of "flight capital" - the illegal movement of vast sums of money out of countries. "No one knows the sums involved, but one contribution to flight capital is corruption. The environmental consequences of such corruption on a vast scale are immense in many countries," he said.

At the two-day conference, being held at the Royal Geographical Society, the Prince was followed to the rostrum by Dr Lutzenberger, appointed by the recently installed President Collor of Brazil to take responsibility for saving the Amazon rain forest. He too criticized the present US administration for wanting more information before it committed money to Third World forest projects.

"The Americans take the position that we need more information to act. The information has always been there, but the political will was not. Now the political will is there," Dr Lutzenberger said.

Clean-up foundation launched

By Nick Nuttall
Technology Correspondent

A FOUNDATION to provide councils, charities, environmental groups and residents' associations with technical solutions to environmental problems, was launched yesterday by the BOC Group, the former British Oxygen Corporation.

The foundation, which is being set up with an initial grant of £1 million, is calling on environmental groups and organizations to submit proposals for air, water and land pollution schemes in Britain that need technical advice.

The company and the foundation's officials said the new body would bridge a crucial gap between worldwide technological remedies for ecological problems and the people and groups seeking to solve them.

BOC's products are used worldwide in environmental recovery programmes including the oxygenization of "dead" lakes and also on the Thames.

'Unjust' sentence cannot be quashed

A MAN jailed for his first offence, a £300 theft, was told by two High Court judges yesterday that he was a victim of injustice, but must still go to prison.

The judges said the court was powerless to help Gary McCann, aged 34, of New North Road, Islington, north London. His plea for an order quashing his sentence was dismissed with "considerable reluctance". McCann was led away to serve a 90-day sentence imposed by a magistrate in Woolwich, south London, in March last year for stealing property worth about £300 from former employers.

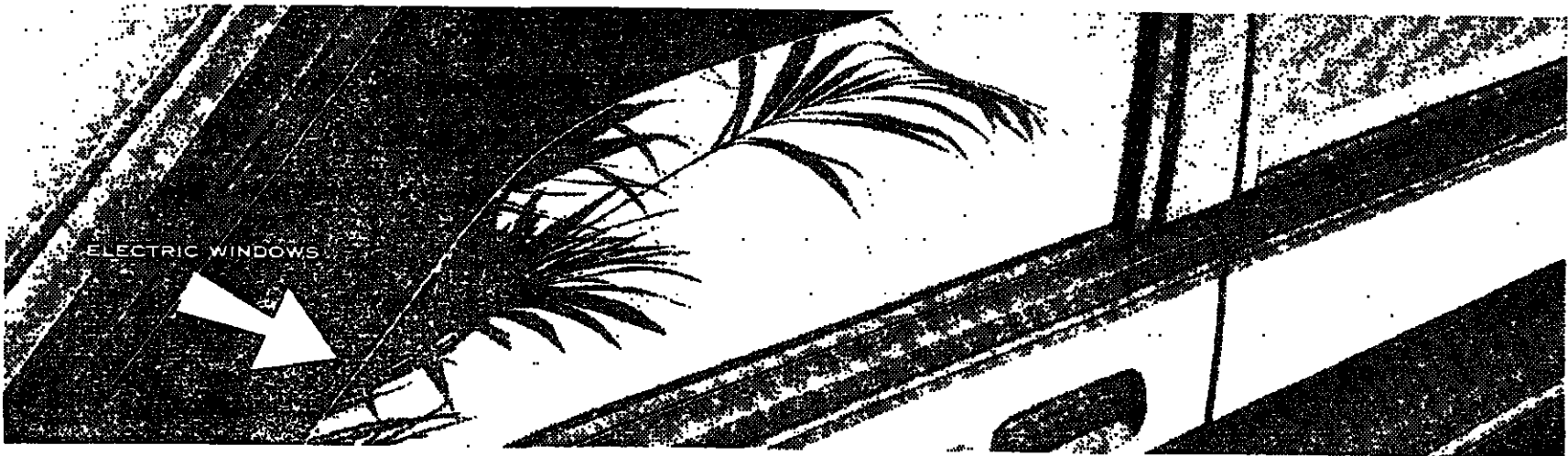
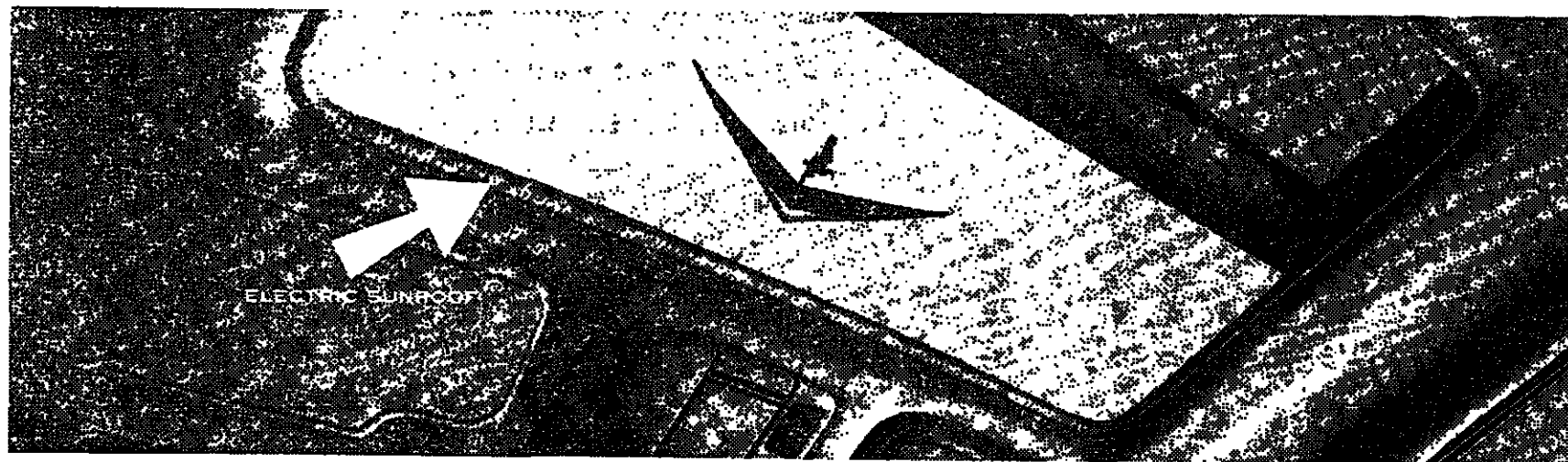
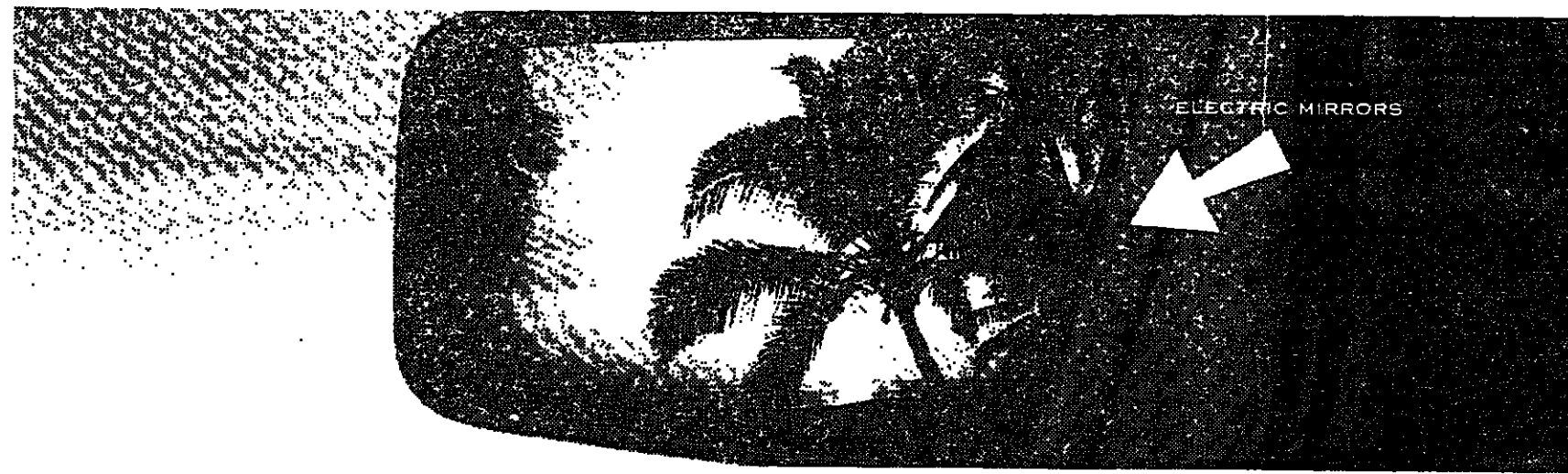
Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Potts, said the situation was "very, very unsatisfactory" and the court would take an unusual step in an attempt to have McCann released. He said the court would invite the prison authorities to use what powers

they had so that McCann could be released "if not forthwith, then as soon as possible thereafter".

Lord Justice Watkins said the magistrate had taken the "surprising" decision to jail McCann, a man of previous good character who had pleaded guilty, in spite of reports favouring a community service order. He said that, although an injustice had undoubtedly been demonstrated, no point of law was violated either in the magistrates' court or the crown court. The High Court had limited jurisdiction over cases in which a sentence appeal from a magistrates' court had been heard in a crown court. McCann lost an appeal to Inner London Crown Court against the sentence last May.

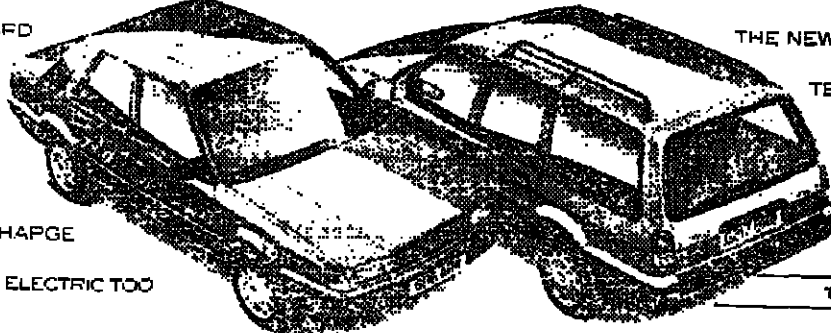
Lord Justice Watkins said the High Court was powerless unless a point of law was involved.

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مكتبة الأصل

Council staff on strike as 50% of poll tax remains unpaid

By Ray Clancy

HUNDREDS of council workers went on strike yesterday to support colleagues suspended for refusing to collect the community charge as it was disclosed that in some areas up to 50 per cent of payers have not yet made any contribution.

Many authorities in England are finding it difficult to collect the new tax, especially those that have been capped for "overspending", two months after the first bills went out. Authorities are collecting on average between 20 and 30 per cent less poll tax than they had expected and suffer from a wide range of administrative problems including com-

puter troubles and staff shortages. Among the 21 authorities singled out for capping by Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, the average non-collection rate is 50 per cent.

In the London borough of Greenwich, one of the capped councils, collection problems were exacerbated when hundreds of workers staged a one-day strike in support of 10 colleagues in the housing department who were suspended on May 1 for refusing to collect the poll tax. As a result of the strike action called by Nalco, the local government officers' union, social services were running an emergency service only. The union is calling for the suspended cashiers to be reinstated; about 170

housing officers have been on indefinite strike for three weeks.

Although it is early days as far as collection figures are concerned, a pattern is emerging, according to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities. "Many councils are experiencing problems and the average collection rate is much lower than had been expected, around 20 to 30 per cent of potential payers have not made any payment," the association said.

"Capping has resulted in a great deal of confusion among poll tax payers who do not know whether they should pay now or wait to see what happens with the legal challenge to the Government. The result is a massive non-payment rate for

capped authorities of around 50 per cent." There is also confusion over rebates and many authorities, especially in London where there are large ethnic and low-income populations, have still not processed all the rebate applications.

In St Helens, Merseyside, one of the capped metropolitan boroughs, 40,000 out of 136,000 poll tax payers have not yet contributed anything. "This is creating cash flow problems within the council and it is undoubtedly due to the confusion over capping."

"Some people are obviously waiting to see what the figure will be after the legal challenge but this is a rather foolish attitude because in the long run services could be reduced and charges in-

creased," the council said. About half the poll tax payers have not yet contributed in Rochdale, Greater Manchester, another metropolitan borough which has been capped. The council had also problems with its computer system and staff shortages.

Birmingham City Council, the largest collecting authority, is experiencing an administrative nightmare. The biggest trouble has been processing rebates. "Before the bills went out we had around 140,000 rebate claims but in the last six weeks we have received another 120,000 which is creating a large backlog," Mr Roger Burton, the deputy treasurer, said.

In Wakefield, West Yorkshire, and Leeds collection is about £2 million less

than forecast and some councils have found collection is being slowed by huge queues at poll tax offices. About a quarter of the 60,000 poll tax payers in the North East district council area in Lincolnshire have failed to pay so far and reminders have been sent.

Mr Alan Thomas, the council's finance director, said he was prepared to take steps to deduct the money from wages and call in the bailiffs if there was no response to the reminder notices.

Anti-poll tax protesters are to hand a petition to the Queen at Windsor Castle tomorrow. Organizers of the Maidenhead Against the Poll Tax campaign plan to march the four miles through Maidenhead town centre to Windsor.

Hooligans exposed in secret operation

UNDERCOVER policemen infiltrated an organized gang of Bolton Wanderers football supporters through a season of violence. Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Officers working on Operation Gamma travelled with supporters to away matches, building a dossier on the way they planned and orchestrated fights against supporters of other clubs with a reputation for violence. One undercover officer had to watch helplessly as a supporter attacked a youth late at night, the court was told.

A total of 34 supporters have admitted a variety of offences during the 1988-89 season and face the court for sentence. Mr John Jackson, for the prosecution, said incidents included a planned pitch invasion on the opening day of the season at Southend; attacks on opposing supporters in public houses; ambushing opposing supporters in the street and frightening passers-by; racial attacks; goading rival supporters and throwing missiles at them; releasing smoke bombs and trying to break police cordons to fight rivals.

Mr Jackson said Operation Gamma was launched because of growing public concern about football-related violence. He said the effects of such violence had been widespread. It was with this in mind that the police and Crown Prosecution Service considered that an undercover operation was necessary.

"A team of highly trained professional undercover officers first monitored, then collected information and finally obtained evidence of the criminal and violent behaviour of a large number of people from the Bolton area, most of whom claimed to be supporters of Bolton Wanderers Football Club."

Mr Jackson said the evidence showed that fears were well founded. "Although on occasion the violence was spontaneous, more often it was planned and orchestrated, targeted in particular at supporters of other high-profile clubs - those with a reputation for violence, not soccer skills."

The supporters tried to pick fights with rugby fans attending a Widnes-Wigan rugby league match at the soccer club's Burnden Park stadium in January last year.

Mr Jackson said the officers mingled with supporters, hearing them make plans for violent clashes and being shown smoke bombs they planned to use.

Mr Jackson described an incident in which one supporter picked a fight with a youth aged 16 late at night after a match against Gillingham. He punched the youth in the eye and when nightclub doormen intervened they took the supporter's side, headbutting the youth and throwing him out.

Of the 34 defendants, 31 admitted violent disorder, one admitted conspiring to cause violent disorder and 20 admitted affray; 14 admitted conspiring to cause an affray, two admitted causing actual bodily harm and six admitted using threatening and abusive behavior.

There was one guilty plea to the charge of unlawful wounding and one to a charge of possessing an offensive weapon. Sentencing is expected to begin today.

Police urge rebuilding of fences at soccer club

By Peter Davenport

POLICE yesterday called for metal fences, dismantled in the aftermath of the Hillsborough disaster, to be re-erected at the ground of Newcastle United Football Club after a pitch invasion that left 13 spectators and seven officers injured.

The 10 ft-high barriers at St James's Park were taken down against police advice after 95 Liverpool supporters died when they were crushed behind similar fences at Hillsborough last April.

Mr Arthur Taylor, an assistant chief constable with Northumbria Police, said the pitch invasion could have been prevented if the fences had been left up. Hundreds of Newcastle supporters swarmed on to the pitch two minutes before the end as their team went two goals behind, causing the referee to stop the game for 21 minutes.

Mr Taylor said Northumbria Police would recommend to the club and the city council, which is responsible for issuing the ground's safety certificate, that the barriers should go back up. "The barriers would have prevented the trouble. People were worried about the crushing effects of the barriers, but if they had been in place I do not think the fans would have even attempted the invasion."

The events emphasize the dilemma facing football and safety licensing authorities; measures taken to prevent hooliganism have been shown to have potentially fatal implications and yet their re-

moval, with no suitable alternative, again creates opportunities for troublemakers. Mr Taylor said police believed the play-off system, which generates highly charged occasions at the end of each season, should be reviewed. Senior officers said they suspected the invasion may have been preplanned.

Police prevented Newcastle supporters reaching the Sunderland group, arresting almost 60 during the fracas; 51 have been charged with public order offences, drunkenness and criminal damage. One has been charged with assaulting a constable who was recovering in hospital yesterday after being hit in the eye with a missile. Seven juveniles were released after being cautioned.

Mr W G McKee, chairman of Newcastle United, said he was "saddened" by the rioting and by the "lugs" who later went on the rampage through the city centre. He said: "The club had reservations about the removal of the fences but it is a condition of the safety certificate and we have to do what the local authority says."

Supt Brian Eltringham, who was in charge of policing at the game, said police had picked up rumours of a pitch invasion being planned in the event of Newcastle being in danger of losing. "We were prepared for this and the referee was prepared to finish the game, no matter how long it took to restore order."

Play-off criticism, page 48

Councils lose claim over water assets

By Mark Souster

FIFTEEN councils yesterday failed in a £2.5 billion compensation claim for assets transferred to water authorities in 1974. An application by the Treasury Solicitor that the claim should be struck out as vexatious and frivolous was upheld in the High Court.

After a three-day hearing, Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, the Vice-Chancellor, dismissed what would have been the largest civil action ever, and which could have cost the Government £1.3 billion.

He ruled that ownership of the assets was transferred from local authority control when regional water authorities were set up in 1974 and that the councils were not entitled to the proceeds of any future sale of assets or compensation. The local authorities, which were ordered to pay the costs of the case, were given leave to appeal. They are expected to make a decision next week.

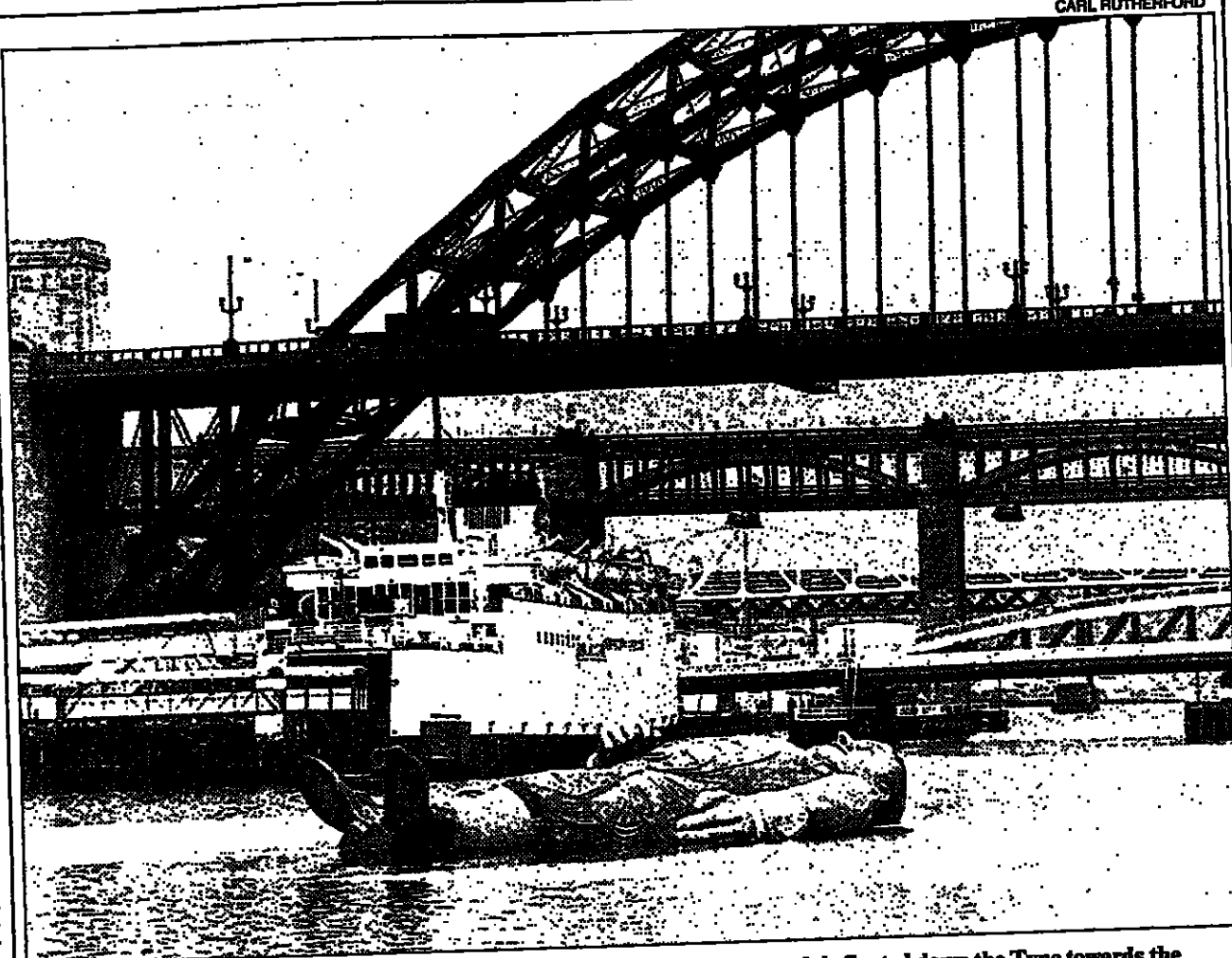
The councils had argued that when water and sewerage services were reorganized in 1974 after the 1973 Water Act only management and control were transferred - not ownership. If, however, assets were transferred, the local authorities claimed they were entitled to compensation under the

1845 Land Clauses Act or the proceeds of sale once they were no longer used for water and sewerage purposes.

The judge said that, if the councils were right, the practical difficulties of assessing any compensation claim would be enormous. The court would face a long decision-making process to try to find the answer. In his judgment, however, he found it difficult to believe Parliament intended to create a cumbersome and unworkable system and that when reorganization took place in 1974 everything, including assets and liabilities, was transferred to the new water companies.

In his view there was no possible claim for compensation, no obligation to pay compensation, and no interest "of any nature" in any of the assets by the old authorities. He dismissed the 17 writs brought by the councils and ordered them to pay the costs.

The councils, all but three Labour-controlled, are Sheffield, Doncaster, Hastings, Southampton, Nottingham, Newport (Gwent), Kingston upon Hull, Exeter, Birmingham, Epsom, Ewell, Manchester, Norwich, Wolverhampton, Thamesdown and Kirklees.



A 75 ft model of Jonathan Swift's Gulliver, made of aluminium and wood, is floated down the Tyne towards the site of the National Garden Festival in Gateshead. The event is to be opened today by the Princess Royal

Record 4,000 new charities

By Tom Giles

A RECORD 4,119 new charities were registered in England and Wales last year, taking the total to 168,170, the Charity Commission's annual report disclosed yesterday. Most of the new charities are concerned with environmental protection, the disabled and victims of crime and drug abuse.

There were, however, 1,000 complaints about the running of charities and a further 15 cases were referred to the commission by the Inland Revenue. The commission also began 12 formal inquiries and called in the accounts of more than 4,000 charities. Investigations were set up into the accounts of 18 of these, one of which involved the possible misapplication of more than £1 million by an unnamed charity.

The commission refused to say if the number of complaints had increased, saying only that they involved allegations of fraud, maladministration or fund raising abuses.

Mr Robin Guthrie, chief charity commissioner, said the increase in registrations was heartening. However, people were too often taking on the responsibilities of trusteeship without having detailed technical knowledge or expertise.

He said this underlined a need to improve the administration of charities, leading to their greater effectiveness. "We have embarked on a comprehensive programme of change directed towards this end... chiefly to improve the ways by which we register and supervise charities."

Mr Guthrie said the Government planned to introduce legislation to "streamline and strengthen" the commission's powers.

The recent White Paper, *Charities: A Framework for the Future*, recommends that the commission be empowered to go to court to recover charity property or to enforce obligations owed to charities, rather than having to go through the Attorney General. It comes after calls

Labour MP gets election damages

MISS KATE HOEY, Labour MP for Vauxhall, accepted four-figure damages yesterday over allegations made about her during a by-election.

At the High Court in London, Mr Michael Tuffrey, the Social and Liberal Democrat candidate who lost to Miss Hoey during the Vauxhall by-election in south London in June 1989, apologized and withdrew the "serious and damaging" allegations.

Mr Geoffrey Bindman,

Miss Hoey's solicitor, said Mr Tuffrey and his campaign manager, Mr Philip Arnold, had distributed a leaflet suggesting that, as a Southwark borough councillor, Miss Hoey had tried to suppress the full facts of the death of a child.

The leaflet also suggested that there might have been a cover-up by the ruling Labour group of possible misconduct or incompetence resulting in the death of the child, Doreen Mason, aged 16 months.

Firms fined over river pollution

The Courtaulds Acetate plant at Spondon, Derbyshire, was fined £15,000, with £1,525 costs, yesterday for discharging more than 400 gallons of acid into the River Derwent. More than 4,000 fish were killed in 10 hours. Derby Crown Court was told.

Derby city council denied a charge of permitting pollutant to enter the river and will face trial at a later date.

At Oxted, Surrey, magistrates fined Blue Prince Mushrooms Ltd, of Burstow, £1,000, with £200 costs, for polluting a river with spent compost. Both prosecutions were brought by the National Rivers Authority.

Actor returns

The actor Gordon Kaye will take to the stage for the first time since he was injured in the January storms when he appears in a tribute to Terry-Thomas at the London Palladium next month.

Green tour

Twelve conservation experts from Eastern Europe have flown to Britain to tour coastal reserves managed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. They hope to improve their own wildlife protection.

Audit claims

Colin Jackson, aged 40, a former head of London Transport's auditing department, was remanded on bail by Horseferry Road magistrates charged with submitting false claims for payments of sums of £170,000 and £140,000.

Traffic slows

Norwich is to become one of the first cities in the country to follow Department of Transport guidelines by introducing 20 mph zone in a council housing estate.

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Fleet buyers question car price rises

By David Young

FLEET managers responsible for buying seven out of every 10 cars sold in Britain are to complain to the Monopolies Commission about a spate of recent price rises that they describe as being "more than a coincidence".

In the past month the four big fleet suppliers have all announced price increases, some for the second time this year. Ford put up prices by 3.9 per cent, Rover by 3.8 per cent, Vauxhall by 3.3 per cent and Peugeot by 2.5 per cent.

The Monopolies Commission has already announced that it is investigating the UK car market to find out why prices in Britain are invariably considerably higher than in Europe. The inquiry will look into the relationship between the car makers and their franchise dealers.

The fleet buyers have to go through the dealer network and cannot buy direct

from the manufacturers even though they place orders for thousands of cars at a time. Many fleet managers are now making plans to make more purchases in Europe once the open market is created in 1992.

Yesterday, at the Donington Park motor racing circuit in Leicestershire, car salesman were trying to impress fleet buyers during the annual testing sessions organized by the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association.

Mr Max McHardy, the association's chairman, said: "Many of our members are becoming increasingly concerned about these price rises, which are far in excess of the annual inflation rate. Coupled with higher interest charges, we are now finding that many companies who previously kept their cars for an average of 29 months are now keeping them for over three years."

He added: "The price rises we have faced this year are already near the

annual inflation rate and we have been warned that there could be further price rises before the year is out."

Mr Freddie Aldous, group chairman of the Swan National, one of the country's biggest car buyers, said: "We have got to find a way of bringing the manufacturers into line."

The vehicle manufacturers, however, have defended the increases, saying they are necessary to meet the higher cost of raw materials and wages.

Ford emphasized this point after settling its workers' annual pay claim with an offer of more than 10 per cent. "A British company is searching for Morris Minors after winning an export order to supply 100 of the rebuilt cars to Japan."

Mr Stuart Anderson, sales manager for the Morris Minor Company in Doncaster, said the firm would have to expand its workforce of 15 people to deal with the order.

US rejects appeal for help with boat people

By Martin Fletcher and Andrew McEwen

THE row between Britain and the US over Vietnamese boat people intensified yesterday as the Bush Administration said it had sent the British Government a stiff letter firmly rejecting a request that centres be set up on Pacific territories to take 9,000 of the 54,000 boat people at present held in Hong Kong.

Britain pressed its request yesterday at a conference in Manila of the 29 nations affected by the boat people problem. The proposal was a tactical move to underline the British demand that Washington should stop blocking an international agreement to repatriate boat people from Hong Kong.

Britain further increased pressure on Washington yesterday by announcing aid of £1 million to Vietnam, cutting across the US aid embargo.

Whitehall gave its backing to a proposal by Mr Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, that Vietnam should be helped. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, welcomed Mr Stoltenberg's initiative.

In a letter on May 3, Mr Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, asked Washington to allow 9,000 boat people to be moved to Guam, where the US has a huge military base.

Washington sources disclosed that the letter had caused some irritation. A US

source said it implied that a negative US response would prompt British calls for a review of the comprehensive plan of action for handling the refugees, which was agreed in Geneva last June.

Threatening to unravel so complex an international agreement could precipitate a "major row" between Washington and London, he warned.

The two-day Manila meeting involves officials of the countries involved in the plan. Britain is trying to achieve a consensus, almost reached by the same nations in January, to allow mandatory repatriation to begin after a six-months moratorium. It was blocked by Washington.

In a reply that reached the Foreign Office on Wednesday, Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, the Deputy Secretary of State, recognised the serious problem facing the British colony and said the US was considering the idea of a regional holding centre. However, he argued that camps based in US territories such as Guam would make matters far worse by encouraging thousands more boat people to flee Vietnam. Once on US territory, they could apply to American courts for asylum causing indefinite delays.

Mr Eagleburger also said the United Nations programme of voluntary repatriation with appropriate monitoring had to be given more time to work.



Change of direction: A centuries-old tradition will be broken next week when Frau Elisabeth Petre, married with two children, left, is cast as the Virgin Mary in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, West Germany. Before, women married or aged over 35 have been excluded from female roles in the play, staged every decade for 360 years. Right, Frau Petre as Mary laments over Christ's body at the foot of the Cross. The story of the bitter village feud over the casting is told in tomorrow's Saturday Review section



Brando's son held after mansion killing

From James Bone
New York

MR Christian Brando, son of the reclusive film star Marlon Brando, was arrested yesterday on suspicion of murder after his sister's boyfriend was shot at the family home in Los Angeles.

Marlon Brando, who won Oscars for *On the Waterfront* and *The Godfather*, was at the

Bel Air mansion at the time of the shooting on Wednesday night but did not witness it, police said.

Mr Christian Brando, aged 32, the son from the marriage of Brando to the actress Anna Kashfi, was arrested before dawn after hours of questioning by detectives.

Police said that murder charges would be filed against

him. The victim was identified as Dag Dorlet, aged 26. He died of a single shot to the head.

The police recovered a handgun which they said had been used in the shooting and seized four rifles.

Mr William Kunstler, a noted civil rights lawyer and a longtime acquaintance of Marlon Brando, announced in

New York that he would represent Christian Brando along with two Los Angeles attorneys.

Mr Kunstler called the shooting "a tragic accident" and said that Mr Brando would plead not guilty at a remand hearing today.

He was being held without bail yesterday in a Los Angeles jail.

UK may approve power for MEPs

From Michael Binyon, Strasbourg

BRITAIN hinted yesterday that it would go further than expected towards meeting the European Parliament's demands for greater power. Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Minister for Overseas Development, said it was too early to rule out the call by MEPs for equal powers with the Brussels Commission to propose laws. "It might work in some areas, not in others," she said.

She also said the people of Europe should be more involved in decisions taken by the Community. She recognized that the European Parliament was an "important channel" for this, especially for the increasing number of decisions that affected the whole Community and even countries beyond it.

Mrs Chalker was speaking after a four-hour meeting between foreign ministers of the 12 members, four EC commissioners and leaders of all the political groups at Strasbourg. It was the first joint discussion of Parliament's role in the reform of Community institutions and European political and economic union.

Although no longer responsible for Britain's relations with Parliament, her previous experience at Strasbourg meant that she was chosen by Downing Street to come here instead of anyone now at the Foreign Office.

Other ministers — with the exception of the Irish — gave far greater support to Par-

liament's demands. Belgium virtually accepted all the main points of the Martin report, the parliamentary document on political reform drawn up by Mr David Martin, a Scottish Labour MEP.

The Germans also indicated strong support for its three key demands: co-decision by Strasbourg, the right of legislative initiative and parliamentary election of the president of the Commission. Bonn also backed parliamentary participation in the inter-governmental conference.

Mr Martin, one of the 12 MEPs present, said he was surprised how well the meeting went. Everyone, including the British, accepted there would be changes to the Treaty of Rome, and these would increase Parliament's powers. The ministers also proposed further discussion with MEPs in July.

The French were among the least enthusiastic. M Roland Dumas, the Foreign Minister, spoke only of an "appropriate role" for Parliament, as did Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, when addressing the Parliament on Wednesday. Mr Martin said he feared the Irish were moving to the Thatcher position.

Britain has proposed two new jobs for the MEPs — a role in enforcing EC laws already adopted before intervention by the European Court of Justice, and a check on the Commission's spending.

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How to hit back at a bad boss

From James Bone
New York

A PHILADELPHIA businessman, who sent his secretary to the pub to scout for beautiful women so that she could then call him on a bleeper to tell him of his prospects, has been named one of the worst bosses in America. "He told me to bleep him if there was anyone good-looking in the bar, so he wouldn't waste his time," said his secretary.

She exacted revenge by nominating him for the national bosses contest sponsored by "9to5", a Cleveland-based working women's group. Other "winners" — whose names were not disclosed — included a supervisor in New York who followed females to the toilet to time them.

A manager at an insurance company in Boulder, Colorado, was nominated for shouting at a female employee to bring coffee, explaining: "You squaw, me chief."

Another boss, employed by the state of Wisconsin in Madison, replying to a female employee, who had asked to visit her mother just rushed into hospital, told her: "Well, go ahead. But next time you should plan these things better."

A special award for "boss-felon" went to one at a brokerage firm in Cleveland who held "forgery contests" among secretaries, to see who could best forge clients' signatures on stocks and bonds.

The bad bosses were chosen from hundreds of entries from office workers, by a panel that included the Democratic Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, *The Washington Post* columnist, Bob Levey, and Miss Roberta McKay, head of the Labour Department's women's bureau. "We expected to get a lot of funny stories," said Miss Denise Mitchell of 9to5. "But we also got a lot of very grim stories."

Sharp fall in cocaine abuse cases

Washington — Figures showing a considerable drop in cocaine-linked medical emergencies have sparked hopes that America's appetite for the drug may have begun to decline.

Officials are unsure if the 22 per cent fall in hospital admissions for cocaine abuse represents long-term progress. But the hospital figures are considered among the most reliable, since they deal with hard cases rather than estimates. (Reuter)

MP spells out Mafia claims

Sydney — The federal and New South Wales police, a politician and a judge were linked yesterday to a huge Mafia drug operation and the assassination last year of a top federal police officer investigating the affair (Robert Cockburn writes).

Mr John Hutton MP used parliamentary privilege to name Mr John Ford, a former judge, and a state MP who cannot be named outside the state parliament as he is facing criminal charges. The New South Wales Government is to institute a federal Royal Commission of inquiry.

CIA accused by Vietnam

Bangkok — The Vietnamese believe the United States is pursuing a sophisticated campaign to destabilize the country, an American interrogated for three weeks in Ho Chi Minh City said yesterday (Mary Magistad writes).

Mr Michael Morrow, a Hong Kong-based businessman held for being in a provincial town without permission, said his interrogators were convinced the CIA played a key role in destabilizing East Europe and was now doing the same in Vietnam.

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Bush threat of trade sanction over Baltic hard line by Moscow

From Martin Fletcher, Washington

THE Bush Administration is signalling that the President may not be prepared to sign a coveted trade treaty with the Soviet Union at this month's superpower summit because of Moscow's tough stance against the Baltic independence movements.

Senior US officials accompanying Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State, on his trip to Moscow have briefed American reporters to this effect in a move that will intensify pressure on Moscow at a critical juncture in its struggle with Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. President Bush has taken no firm decision yet, and much will depend on the outcome of Mr Baker's meetings with President Gorbachev and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, this week.

The American President is, however, aware of growing resistance in Congress to any liberalization of trade with the Soviet Union while it is cracking down on the Baltic republics. On May 1, the Senate voted overwhelmingly that it should not be asked to approve trade benefits for the Soviet Union at present.

The treaty would not only liberalize superpower trade but would pave the way for the granting of most-favoured-nation trading status, under which Soviet exports to the US would attract minimum

tariffs. The treaty is of great practical and symbolic importance to Moscow.

Until now, with arms control negotiations stalled, it looked to be the only major agreement that Mr Bush and Mr Gorbachev could with certainty look forward to signing at their Washington summit beginning on May 31. Were Mr Bush to withhold his signature, it would represent the first concrete US sanction against the Soviet Union since its began its campaign of intimidation and economic embargoes against Lithuania.

Last month Mr Bush backed away from threatened sanctions, including the possible curtailment of trade talks. In a press conference on Wednesday, Mr Bush said Soviet pressure on the Baltic republics "has certainly brought out some tension on the summit", but said relaxation of that economic pressure "could clear the air fast".

A second obstacle to the granting of most-favoured-nation trading status to the Soviet Union may arise over the passage of a new liberal Soviet emigration law. Moscow has now informed the US that the legislation will go before the Soviet Parliament on May 31, the day the summit opens.

A CIA report has meanwhile painted a gloomy picture of the economic prospects

for the newly-reformed nations of Eastern Europe, warning that they face "deep recessions" and unemployment rates of up to 20 per cent. It said the region's economic performance was still deteriorating, and warned of the possibility of public protests and political instability. The greatest short-term hardship was likely to be felt in Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

● MOSCOW: The last formal pre-summit meetings reached their half-way stage in Moscow yesterday with the second round of talks between Mr James Baker, who is heading a big American delegation, and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister (Mary Dejevsky writes).

US officials say President Gorbachev's decrees condemning Latvia and Estonia which were published the evening before Mr Baker arrived in Moscow have complicated the discussions. They were followed by clashes between ethnic Russians and Balts in the two republics.

On the Soviet side, the last-minute additions to President Gorbachev's itinerary, which now includes Canada, the Mid-West and San Francisco and may involve a return journey across the Pacific and Eastern Siberia as well, suggest that side-shows are being prepared in case the summit fails.



Aleksei Mihalichenko, a Soviet football player, praying yesterday at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Judaism's holiest site, the day after his team lost 2-3 to Israel

Estonia defies Kremlin ban on independence

From Anatol Lieven, Riga

The Estonian parliament has responded to Mr Gorbachev's decree that their declaration of independence is invalid by passing a series of measures trying to give independence practical effect. These are precisely the sort of measures that the Lithuanian parliament took, and which Mrs Kazimiera Prunskiene is now offering to suspend.

The new Estonian measures come in two parts: a law on "the regulation of the transition period" and an "action programme" based on this law, which declares that all Estonian state bodies are now removed completely from Soviet control. It declares that future relations between Estonia and the Soviet Union are to be based on the peace treaty of 1920 — not the treaty of 1939 which provided for Soviet bases in Estonia.

The law states that in the transition period the highest legislative and executive bodies are the Supreme Soviet and the government, and that the government has the right to impose a state of emergency — something which is beginning to seem a very real possibility. It states that economic disputes involving union enterprises must be settled by the State Arbitration Council of Estonia.

The "action programme" states that in negotiations with Moscow, no form of membership of the Soviet Union will be discussed. This appears to rule out the suggestion repeated this week by the Latvian deputy Prime Minister, Dr Ilmars Biers, that the confederation with the Soviet Union represents a good road to compromise.

The programme says that the ultimate aim of the parliament is the complete withdrawal of the Soviet army, and for Estonia to become a neutral and non-aligned state. It aims at Estonian membership of the Helsinki conference, the UN, and other international bodies.

It declares that no enterprises, bodies or individuals in Estonia can now regard themselves as subject to Soviet law. If any bodies continue to operate under Soviet law, the programme says, they will "be regarded as illegitimate organs of the occupying powers." This is a reference amongst other things to the local councils of north eastern Estonia which has a large Russian majority, and which have declared that they do not accept the Estonian declaration of legal independence, and that they will go on obeying Soviet law.

The programme commits the government to establishing different forms of ownership in Estonia, and to privatise state enterprises. This will be done, the programme says, "without seeking harmony between Estonian and Soviet laws".

Apart from these parliamentary measures, the government itself has issued a decree establishing a "Home Guard" to defend public buildings like the parliament. Voluntary registration has al-

ready begun, and thousands are reported to have applied to join in Tallinn alone. This force will be unarmed — though it is feared that more radical elements may wish to arm it, if that is they can find any arms.

A second decree "suspends the legality" of the League of Work Collectives. This, as in Latvia, represents Russian workers and managers. It helped organise the riotous demonstration on Tuesday and is planning a general strike to begin on Monday. It is feared by some Western observers here that the provocative nature of the decrees may gravely weaken the position of Russian moderates, above all in north eastern Estonia.

The result is that less than a week after pledging to establish a joint stance in negotiations with Moscow, the three Baltic states seem even further apart than before: the policies of the Lithuanian and Estonian governments are moving in opposite directions, while that of Latvia appears to have come to a halt.

Soviet film showdown at Cannes

Cannes

THE Cannes film festival has set the stage for a showdown between the Soviet Union's largest independent studio, Mosfilm, and its state-run film agency, Sovexport Film.

Once completely state-funded, Mosfilm in 1988 took advantage of the new Soviet laws on private ownership to go independent. The studio asked Sovexport to work alongside it as an agent. "But they have been selling our films without informing us," said Mr Anatoly Valushkin, head of Mosfilm's export-import department.

Mr Oleg Sulkin, Sovexport's editor-in-chief, admitted it had been slow to keep Mosfilm informed of the terms of their contracts.

The row, brewing for a long time, finally came to a head in Cannes. "We told them the agreement was over as they had breached the terms of the contract and we said from now on we would sell all our films ourselves," said Mr Valushkin. In a move that is particularly galling for Sovexport, Mosfilm has repossessed the copyright on its priceless library of 2,500 films.

In the meantime, Mosfilm is getting used to a new experience — aggressive marketing. The studio has brought nine new films to Cannes. One of them, Gleb Panfilov's *The Mother*, an adaptation of a story by Maxim Gorky, is competing for the prestigious Golden Palm award. These post-perestroika films are pulling no punches about conditions back home. (Reuters)

Cannes Diary, page 19

Berlin widens poll rift with Kohl

From Michael Binyon, Strasbourg

ALL-German elections should not be held until the Russians were fully satisfied that all external aspects of unification had been agreed, the East German Prime Minister said here yesterday. His remarks, at a press conference after talks with MEPs, widened a gap with Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor, who wants a general election in a unified Germany as soon as possible.

Herr Lothar de Maizière said the necessary precondition had first to be settled, including the domestic and international framework for elections. This could not be achieved unless all the partners in the "two plus four" talks were in agreement. Asked whether reunification could be achieved this year, he said: "I am not a prophet."

He said a unified Germany had the right to choose which alliance it would join. If this was to be Nato, it would have to be a very different Nato, with more emphasis on the political role and less on the military. He wanted a security policy that was in a pan-European context.

The East German Prime Minister, making his first visit to the country his ancestors left 300 years ago, had a full discussion with fellow Christian Democrats about integration into the EC. This included the key question of agriculture, for which he said special transition arrangements were essential.

Bonn has announced that a unified Germany would not immediately seek any increased representation in Strasbourg. But Herr de Maizière said that his country



Herr de Maizière: An eye on Moscow's concerns

wanted observer status in the European Parliament until its citizens could take part directly in the 1994 European elections.

● BONN: The Finance Ministry yesterday announced that this year fiscal authorities will collect DM8.2 billion (£3 billion) more tax than expected thanks to the booming West German economy (Ian Murray writes).

The extra money, coupled with even better returns now predicted for the years ahead, gives strong support to Government claims that it will not need to raise extra taxes to pay for the costs of reunification.

Between now and 1994 these surpluses will total DM115 billion (£41.7 billion). It is probably no coincidence that this is the exact amount agreed with the Government only the previous day for setting up a "Unity Fund" to help East Germany.

The new estimates suggest an ever increasing revenue from the economic growth rate.

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NIGEL CHAMBER

Rival rallies in Bucharest boost tension before polls

From Christopher Walker, Bucharest

PRE-ELECTION tension in Romania rose to a dangerous new pitch last night as the two opposing camps, the ruling National Salvation Front and anti-communist demonstrators, held massive simultaneous rallies in Bucharest during the last official hours of campaigning.

The demonstrations, one legal and the other illegal, drew crowds of around 40,000 each and showed more clearly than anything seen during the acrimonious campaign the polarization that has brought Romania close to a new revolution.

An impressive column of anti-communist demonstrators nearly a mile long marched fifteen abreast through the centre of the capital chanting anti-communist slogans and denouncing the Front as the continuation of communism under a different disguise. They also linked it with former members of the hated Securitate (secret police).

Crowds lining streets and balconies cheered and clapped the protesters who were led by a banner declaring *Jos comunismul* (Down with communism). Many in the crowd denounced the elections due to take place on Sunday as a sham biased in the Front's favour, and claimed that the street protests would continue whatever the outcome of the vote. About a mile away from the march, another equally large and passionate crowd

gathered in Aviator's Square to cheer to the echo Mr Ion Iliescu, the Front's Moscow-educated candidate for president. Speakers flatly denied allegations that the Front had communist inclinations and the crowd grew nearly hysterical in its support for Front politicians.

The anti-communist march was the largest seen in Bucharest since last December's revolution and displayed clearly the deep suspicion felt by many Romanians about an election campaign which has been tilted sharply in the Front's favour because of its dominance over the written and broadcast media. It has also been overshadowed by scores of complaints of intimidation and violence by Front supporters against the main opposition right and centre right parties.

One marcher, Mr Claudio Pasare, a student, aged 18, explained angrily: "The result of the election is a foregone conclusion: we know the Front will win because they have duped the workers. But that does not stop us fighting against Communism. That was the point of the revolution and why so many of our colleagues died. We are not going to let their memory be shamed."

The well-disciplined marchers passed shrines still erected to the dead of December until they converged in tens of thousands on the barricaded, self-styled "communist-free zone" which has blocked the commercial heart of Bucharest for the whole of the election campaign and shows no sign of disappearing. The area is daubed with anti-Front slogans and caricatures wickedly lampooning its leading candidates. There are also many posters showing old photographs of Mr Iliescu in close company with the late Nicolae Ceausescu.

Diplomatic observers said that the march and the Front's closing rally were clear signs of deep social divisions in post-revolutionary Romania which could easily spill over into new political violence unless the newly elected Government can quickly launch an effective programme of national reconciliation.

Most of the anti-Communist marchers were students who have declared a strike on the eve of voting in protest against the Front's alleged espousal of neo-communist policies and its refusal to change the electoral law to ban all former Communist Party activists from standing.

The huge display of strength by the anti-government students and many of their teachers was of great significance as it was the students who led the struggle which overthrew Ceausescu and his communist dictatorship.

Pollution horrors fail to stir voters

From Tim Judah
Copsa Mica, Transylvania

THE Carbosin chemical plant in Copsa Mica offers one of the most depressing experiences in Romania.

Acid bubbles fiercely in ancient conical vats, steam spurts from assorted corroded pipes, and yellow sulphurous crystals grow in banks on the floor. The buildings appear virtually derelict. They are certainly unsafe. Outside, grimy workers skirt small lagoons of noxious chemicals and the land for miles around is coated in thick black soot.

Copsa Mica is one of the worst ecological disaster zones in Europe. The fact that a whole town is coated in soot from the 30,000 tonnes that the plant belches out every year is almost the least of its problems. Far more serious is the poisoning of its people.

Dr Alexandru Balin recently conducted a survey of 100 new employees at IMM, the neighbouring plant to Carbosin, where lead, cadmium, zinc, copper and lead are processed. While all the workers in the sample were healthy when employed, the research showed that after a year every one had between 80 and 800 times the permissible lead level in their system. Anaemia



Filthy track record: The pollution-belching chimneys of Copsa Mica's chemical plant have turned the town into an ecological disaster zone

because of lead poisoning affected 71 per cent of the men.

Dr Jean Nenea, the principal medical officer of IMM, said: "It's extremely depressing. Apart from anaemia, acute lead poisoning leads to neurological, digestive and respiratory problems. It also leads to impotence." Dr Nenea said he could see

"absolutely no grounds for optimism in the future".

Since the revolution there has been some industrial unrest at both Copsa Mica plants, but so far no improvements have been made. Surprisingly, the pollution has not become an important local issue in the elections. When asked what the Na-

tional Salvation Front intends to do about Copsa Mica, the president of the local National Salvation Front, Mr Ioan Stavila, simply referred to his party's manifesto. Like all parties, the NSF plans to "clean up the environment".

Questioned more closely, he said: "The problem is the same for all the local political

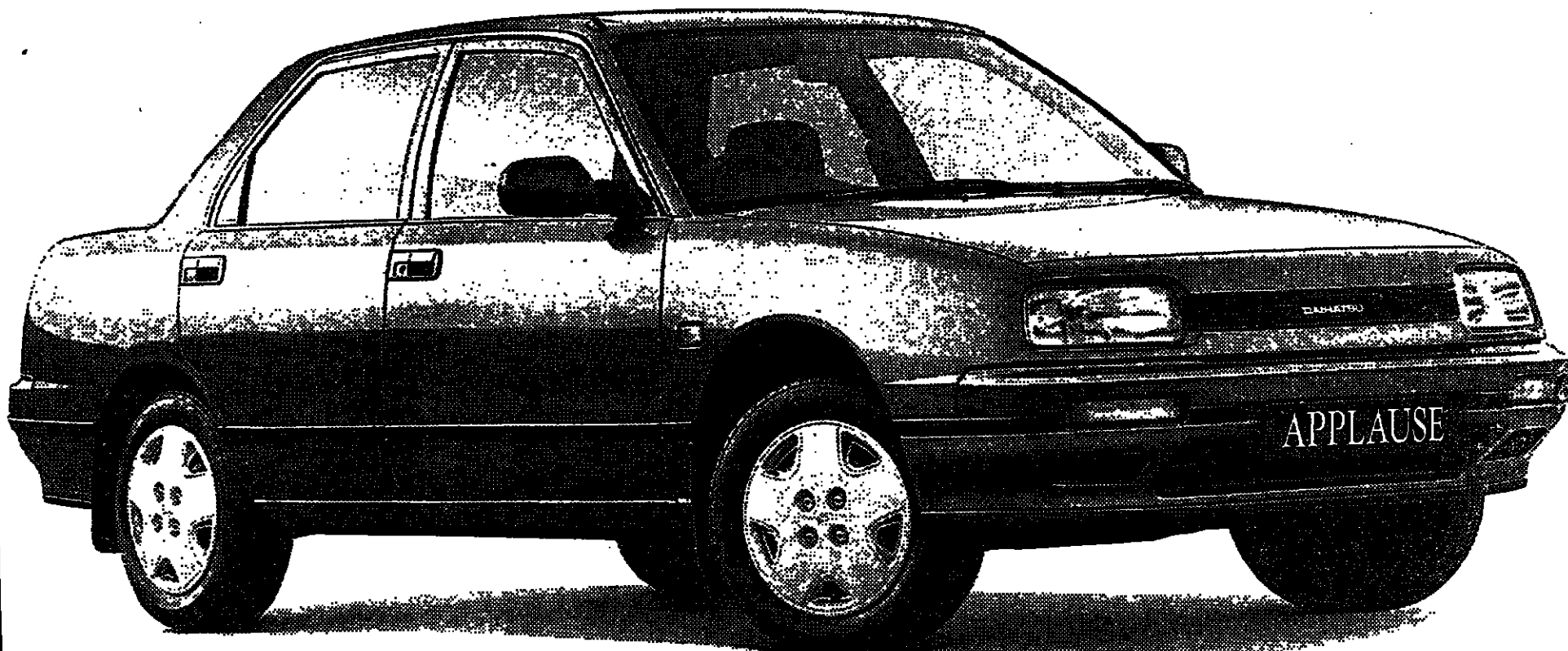
parties. It would be best to modernize the plants but closing them down cannot be ruled out."

At this a member of the National Liberal Party, who was in his office, nodded in agreement. But Mr Dorin Boila, of the Romanian Ecologist Movement, said his party hoped to capitalize on Copsa

Mica. "We hope to get 10 per cent of the vote in the county and more than that in Copsa Mica."

But a poll of workers from both big plants revealed only support for the ruling Salvation Front. "The ecologists would close this place down. Where would we work then?" said one worker.

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Doe regime creaking as guerrillas step up pace

From Philip Jacobson, Monrovia

WHILE the Liberian authorities remain silent about the latest reports of a sharp build-up in rebel operations, a newspaper in the capital yesterday published a revealing account of how a top army commander died in one of the most recent clashes.

The lead vehicle in which he was riding was wrecked by a rocket-propelled grenade before the attack switched to two lorries carrying government soldiers. It was swift and deadly, a textbook ambush, with the guerrillas meeting back into the security of the bush and the body of Colonel John Krakue providing stark proof that what began not six months ago as a local uprising in Nimba county has assumed the proportions of an insurgency that threatens the Government of President Doe.

That sharp little clash on the road to Palala reinforces the view of most foreign observers here that the 7,000-strong Liberian Army now has a serious fight on its hands, especially in the increasingly

hostile countryside. A member of the US Military Mission here went to have a look for himself in Buchanan, the second city 90 miles south of here.

Buchanan lies in the line of the offensive that the National Patriotic Front, under Mr Charles Taylor, has mounted to the west of Nimba county — snipping off key roads and stretches of railway — and some observers believe the rebels may now be planning to cut Buchanan off from its main supply lines.

Successive administrations in Washington have helped to train, fund and fit out the government troops, from their oversized steel helmets to combat boots and M16 rifles. According to President Doe, who was a senior NCO in the Liberian Army when he seized power a decade ago, government troops are under orders to protect and respect civilians. However, according to Western sources here, most ordinary army units are composed of uneducated, super-

stitious teenage youths who have often been pressed into service, many so inexperienced that they will not have fired 20 rounds during their hasty "training" for the front line.

When President Doe first sent this force into Nimba county to wipe out Mr Taylor's hard core of some 100 trained guerrillas, two US military advisers went with them. Some observers saw this

as a response to claims by the Liberian Government that Libya was backing the rebels, though Washington insisted that the advisers' presence was intended to exert influence on the conduct of Liberian troops.

The massacres that allegedly followed — set out in convincing detail by international human rights organizations — appear to have persuaded the US to pull its

men out fast and to begin the delicate process of "distancing" Washington from a regime that has few friends left in black Africa.

So what was that American adviser doing in Buchanan, where increasing numbers of dejected and apprehensive Liberian troops are reported to be drifting in from isolated outposts? An inspection tour, said the US Embassy, in line with the assistance that Wash-

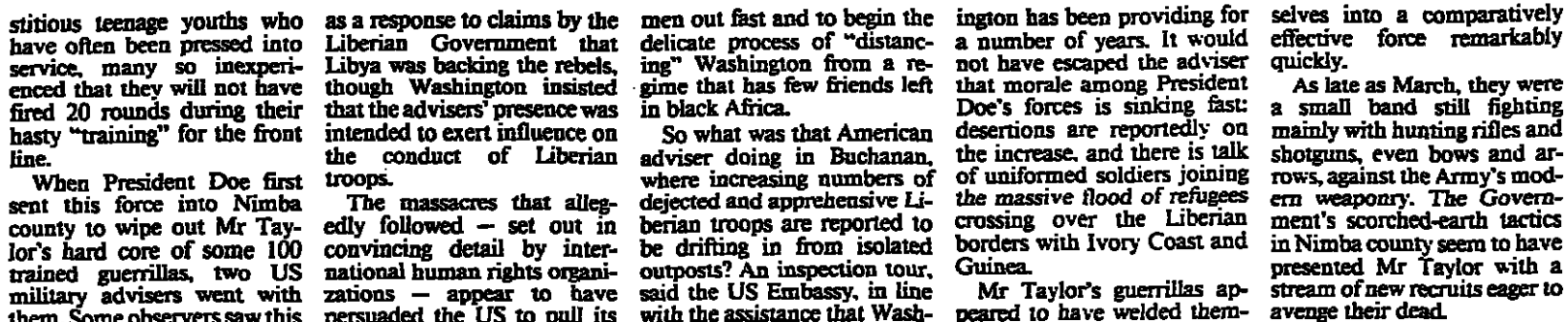
ington has been providing for a number of years. It would not have escaped the adviser that morale among President Doe's forces is sinking fast: desertions are reportedly on the increase, and there is talk of uniformed soldiers joining the massive flood of refugees crossing over the Liberian borders with Ivory Coast and Guinea.

Mr Taylor's guerrillas appeared to have welded them-

selves into a comparatively effective force remarkably quickly.

As late as March, they were a small band still fighting mainly with hunting rifles and shotguns, even bows and arrows, against the Army's modern weaponry. The Government's scorched-earth tactics in Nimba county seem to have presented Mr Taylor with a stream of new recruits eager to avenge their dead.

National Patriotic Front guerrillas, fighting the regime of President Doe, preparing to stage an ambush along a track leading to Monrovia



French aid sought to curb revolt in Abidjan

By Susan MacDonald

AS 30 years of one-party power in Ivory Coast staggers to an end, the French newspaper *Libération* revealed yesterday that President Houphouët-Boigny has demanded French military assistance in restoring order among his own troops. The request, according to the newspaper, is valid under a secret 1961 co-operation agreement.

On Wednesday, Ivorian conscripts ran amok, taking over the international airport in the capital, Abidjan, for 10 hours, and occupying the national television station to demand better pay and conditions.

The French Government's response was to place the 600 French troops in Ivory Coast on full alert and send Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Le Caro, the head of the special intervention squad of the French gendarmerie, to Abidjan on an "advisory mission".

The Ivorian paramilitary police persuaded the mutineers to lay down their arms and return to barracks on Wednesday evening. Only a handful of mutineers were still roaming the streets yesterday, but the general feeling is that the Government has ceased to rule and law and order is disappearing fast in the former French colony.

High on style and ill omens

From Charles Bremner, Hong Kong

AMID much pomp, Hong Kong's upper crust turned out with the top people's cadres yesterday for the inauguration of the Bank of China building, a geometric masterpiece that soars above the frenetic harbour skyline.

As far as symbolism goes, the 70-storey tower — the tallest outside America — is loaded. Ultramodern and minimalist, I. M. Pei's lovely design proclaims China's looming ascendancy over the colony and speaks for the commercial enthusiasm of the People's Republic in the days before the Tiananmen Square massacre.

But while the dignitaries no doubt pondered on all this yesterday, other more ancient forces were at work. All around the teeming financial district, they took time off from their computers to invoke the spirits that the local residents fear are being offended by the notorious bad *feng shui* of Mr Pei's edifice.

They may inhabit one of the highest-tech corners of the planet and spend half their lives on their cellular telephones, but Hong Kong people set great store by *feng shui*, the ancient art, part mysticism, part architecture, of arranging buildings and other objects so they are in harmony with nature and dictate luck. With good *feng shui* — the words mean wind and water — money flows in; with bad, it flows out.

The People's Republic and Mr Pei asked for trouble right from the start by failing to consult a geomancer who could have told them, in a twiddle of his 2,000-year-old calculator, that all was not well. Across the road, when they were building the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, a high-tech extravaganza by Norman Foster, the designers called in an eminent master to survey the plans long before the excavations. Under their advice, they adjusted the angles of escalators and other fixtures.

Such consultation is basic insurance. When the glossy Regent hotel was constructed a few years ago, the developers took steps to avoid antagonizing the earth forces by installing a high glass front. A dragon was said to pass that way to take his bath and would not have been pleased at any obstruction.

For a Chinese, albeit of US

nationality, Mr Pei might have known better. He chose as his motif the triangle, turning the whole building into a symphony to the very form that brings bad *feng shui*. The acute edges are said to slice through the yin-yang, angering the spirits, who now direct their displeasure towards places where the triangles point — the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, for example.

To make matters worse, Mr Pei stuck two spires on top — chopsticks in an empty rice bowl, say the experts. Others pointed out that they were daggers pointed at the competition. Mr Pei, whose vibrations have not been questioned on other projects — such as the glass pyramid he built in the courtyard of the Louvre — said the poles were simply a flourish. But the locals are not satisfied.

They are especially unhappy with the notion that the mainland money men are gaining good *feng shui* inside their bank while turning the spirits against the neighbours.



Peking ascendant: The Bank of China building

Long private viewing for Van Gogh portrait

From Joe Joseph, Tokyo

THE BUYER of Vincent van Gogh's painting "Portrait of Dr Gachet" for \$82.5 million (£49 million) has been revealed as Mr Ryoei Saito, the head of Japan's second largest paper manufacturer, Daishowa. "I would like to keep on buying good pictures if I find them," he said.

Mr Saito will gaze on his new canvas in private for the time being. He may, in 10 years or so, put it on show in the local art museum in Shizuoka, central Japan, where Daishowa is based.

Now 74 years old and very rich — he is among Japan's biggest taxpayers, paying more than 700 million yen (£2.7 million) in taxes every year — Mr Saito has been collecting paintings for 40 years, along with well-placed property and a big portfolio of

stocks. He says he told Mr Hideto Kobayashi, the Tokyo art dealer who bid on his behalf at Christie's in New York on Tuesday, that he wanted the picture at any cost.

"The price was about five billion yen higher than what I had been expecting," Mr Saito confessed. "I borrowed the money from financial institutions on the security of my personal assets, including real estate. For the time being, I think I'll keep it to myself because of security problems. But I'd like to display it some day in the Shizuoka Prefectural Museum of Art, in my local town. This museum possesses few world famous pictures."

He once had his own gallery but now just visits Mr Kobayashi's "almost every day to talk about paintings."

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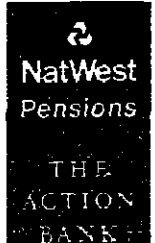
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Move to stop EC lifting sanctions on South Africa

From Derek Ingram, Abuja, Nigeria

COMMONWEALTH foreign ministers launched an attempt here yesterday to head off any possible decision by European Community leaders to relax sanctions against South Africa at the Dublin summit next month. The move came on the eve of Mrs Thatcher's meeting with President de Klerk of South Africa.

Mr Gareth Evans, the Australian Foreign Minister, is flying to Dublin to deliver the message personally to the Irish Government, which currently chairs the Community. Later, he will talk to the French during the Organization of European Co-operation and Development meeting in Paris.

Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, who chairs the Commonwealth committee, will also visit some European capitals, and all EC governments, as well as the Group of Seven leading capitalist countries, will be asked by the Commonwealth committee to delay any move on sanctions until it is much clearer that Mr de Klerk is moving towards the end of apartheid in all its forms.

Nine members of the committee also signed letters to the EC and G7 governments, before they flew off from Abuja yesterday. The Commonwealth foreign ministers' committee on Southern Africa has no British representation. Mrs Thatcher refused to take part when it was set up at the Commonwealth summit in 1987.

The Abuja meeting was addressed by Mr Nelson Mandela, the deputy leader of the African National Congress, who persuaded the Canadians and Australians

not to press for the relaxation of sanctions as a reward for the steps which Mr de Klerk has taken to release political prisoners, lift the ban on opposition groups, and start talks with the ANC.

In his opening speech, Mr Mandela said he was "shocked and amazed" at the behaviour of Britain in lifting some sanctions and calling on other countries to do likewise. He accused Britain of undermining the efforts of the international community, and said that the gains so far achieved could be reversed.

In private talks with the ministers, he emphasized that this was absolutely the wrong moment to relax any international pressures on the South African Government.

Before the Abuja meeting, Washington intimated to the Commonwealth foreign ministers that it looked to their meeting for a policy lead.

The Commonwealth ministers are disappointed that Mrs Thatcher seemed to stay on the sidelines as soon as Mr Mandela was freed and the talking began, but they still hope that there will soon be a way in which Britain can come together with the rest of the Commonwealth to tackle the South African issue.

● London talks: President de Klerk arrived in London last night on the fifth leg of a European tour buoyed by sympathetic hearings he received in Lisbon, Athens, Paris and Brussels for the reforms he is implementing (Michael Knipe writes).

He is scheduled to see Mrs Thatcher on Sunday.

Enterprise culture, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Mining town hit by racial hatred

From Gavin Bell, Johannesburg

SOUTH African police have called for troops to be deployed in a gold-mining town in the Orange Free State after a race riot in which two white company officials were killed and 18 blacks and whites injured.

The clash, at the President Steyn mine in Welkom on Wednesday night, took place amid mounting racial tension in the town, fuelled by black consumer boycotts of white businesses and a heavy-handed response from right-wing vigilantes. Heavily armed police reinforcements took up

positions around the mine, and the South African Defence Force confirmed it had received a request for support.

The violence was sparked by the dismissal of 30 black mineworkers after a confrontation with white miners and officials. About 50 blacks staged a demonstration and were ordered to disperse by mine security units.

According to the police, the security men were attacked, and retaliated with rubber bullets and 9mm pistols. A white training officer was killed and 14 blacks and four whites were wounded. A white man employed in the company's computer section, who was driving by, was surrounded by a mob, dragged out and killed. Witnesses said his throat was cut "from ear to ear".

Within hours, about 100 armed whites gathered outside the local police station to demand a dusk-to-dawn curfew, and thousands of blacks meeting in the adjacent Thabong township decided to intensify their boycott, which began 10 days ago. Residents said the commercial centre of Welkom was like a ghost town yesterday as the boycott tightened and many whites stayed in the suburbs.

Contest for custody of two fingers

Sydney — TWO Australian fingers have been returned to their owner after spending 23 years hidden in a Vegemite jar. But another resident of Bendigo, Victoria, is contesting ownership, saying he is sentimentally attached to the fingers which he used to keep in a matchbox.

On Sunday, a young couple walked into Bendigo police station holding a jar containing two fingers pickled in methylated spirits which they had found in their garden shed. Police contacted the two previous owners of the house, but they knew nothing about it. Senior Sergeant Graham Aitken said: "We ran a piece in the local paper and the next morning this bloke comes in and says they're his."

Mr Michael Ellis said that 23 years ago he had been working in a garage when a man lost two fingers in a tractor accident. Mr Ellis eventually found the fingers, kept them in a match box, and used to scare girls with them in bars. One day their real owner asked for them back. Mr Ellis hid them, preserved in methylated spirits, in an empty Vegemite jar. Ten years ago someone stole the jar.

Yesterday, the unnamed tractor driver walked into the police station and claimed the fingers. (Reuters)

Fate unknown

Tokyo — Japan said yesterday it had made little progress in determining the fate of 27 fishermen aboard three boats seized by the Soviet Union off Hokkaido Island more than a week ago. (Reuters)

Delhi threat

Delhi — Mr V. P. Singh, the Indian Prime Minister, accused Pakistan of creating war hysteria and said that his country was prepared to meet any threat. (Reuters)

Bar wars

Nicosia — Cyprus is considering a new use for soldiers conscripted into the National Guard — as waiters and barmen in resorts to fill vacancies and stop illegal hiring of foreigners by the tourist industry. (Reuters)



A garlanded President Mitterrand of France enjoying a Tahitian welcome from a traditionally dressed local woman at celebrations marking the centenary of Papeete as the capital of French Polynesia

British challenge hots up 'banana war' in Honduras

From James Bone, New York

A BITTER "banana war" between a British firm and a US company in Honduras is on the brink of violence.

Machete-wielding peasants who want to sell their bananas to the London-based Fyffes are threatening to storm the port where their produce is rotting after its export was blocked. The dispute began this year when Fyffes tried to establish itself in the Honduran market by agreeing with the Cagosa independent grower to buy its bananas.

The deal brought the British concern into conflict with Chiquita Brands International, the Cincinnati-based giant that has long enjoyed a near-monopoly in the Honduran banana business.

Chiquita, formerly called United Brands, historically has wielded huge economic power in Central America. In 1954, in defence of the interests of United Fruit (the forerunner of United Brands), the US engineered the overthrow of President Arbenz of Guatemala, giving rise to the expression "banana republic".

In recent years, Cagosa has supplied 7 per cent of the US firm's Honduran exports. Tempted by better terms, Cagosa wants to sell to Fyffes.

Since March, three boatloads of Fyffes bananas have

been prevented from leaving Puerto Cortés. The present focus of the dispute is the Frost Cetus, a Cypriot-registered vessel now in Puerto Cortés which is waiting to take on a cargo of Fyffes bananas. The growers accuse Chiquita of sabotaging delivery of the cargo. One train, they allege, was shunted into a siding by Chiquita on Friday, while the two sides wrangled over conflicting court decisions about whether the bananas, aboard could be sold to Fyffes. Another was derailed by a spike driven into the track. The result is that bananas worth an estimated \$750,000 have gone rotten.

"The present situation legally is that we have asked the courts, the judge has appointed a caretaker — an independent party — and he is to take possession of the fruit," said Mr Charles Morgan, Chiquita's general counsel. "The fact of the matter is that Fyffes is using other court orders," he said.

Mr Morgan said Chiquita had held discussions with the local authorities in Honduras, who supported the company's position and were therefore preventing the bananas from being loaded for export. The company denies bribing judges or sponsoring violence.

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Vanished in a puff of smoke

Philip Howard

On Monday the Press Council rebuked *The Sun* for using the words "poofier" and "poof" to describe male homosexuals. Its charmingly unworldly adjudication ruled that the words were "unnecessary crude abuse", as though unnecessary crude abuse were not the element in which rambo journalism lives and moves and makes its profits. There is a law of diminishing returns about such bonking prose. Tabloid newspapers should indeed speak street language, but not the language of graffiti from street walls. When every headline shrieks short, sharp, nasty little words, pretty soon there is no vocabulary left when something truly sensational happens.

Whether the admirable Louis Blom-Cooper and his colleagues are prudent to step into the notorious morass of the language of sex is doubtful. The more interesting question is whether *The Sun* is linguistically correct in its characteristically sprightly fence of its language. In a leader, the paper declared with typical diffidence: "Readers of *The Sun* KNOW and SPEAK and WRITE words like poof and poofier. What is good enough for them is good enough for us. Incidentally, our dictionary defines gay as carefree, merry, brilliant." Come on, Kelv, get a more up-to-date dictionary. If *The Sun* wants to claim dirty-mouthed bigots from the rougher kind of boozers as its readers, that is its business. But the words in question sound quite old-fashioned to me. I doubt whether they are still the rambo words used to abuse homosexuals by *Sun* readers aged under 50.

In addition to being out of date, poofier has a distinctly Oz ring to it. Down Under in Australia and New Zealand poofier can be used as a generalized term of abuse, with no necessary suggestion that the person so described is homosexual, or that his manner or behaviour does not conform with that conventionally regarded as masculine in those macho countries. For example, from the *Sydney Bulletin*: "He supports the Vietnam war on the ground that it makes men, convicts, or corpses out of a lot of draft-dodging poofiers." And from the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "Banks was a poofier. Have you got any proof of that? He was a botanist and Pommy - what more proof do you want?" Australia has always been a rich source of English slang, which is the poetry of the convict and working classes. Certitude is seldom available in the etymology of sexual slang, but I think that poofier is a word not of *Sun* readers but of *Private Eye* readers. Ever since the incomparable Barry Mackenzie, chundering torrents of Technicolor yawns, poofier has been a word of the *Eye*-reading classes. And, like the *Eye*, it now sounds quite middle-aged.

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

Let me immediately say that I have no complaints. I had a corking time. All that happened was that I got blown about a bit, but I'd be ready for that. When he sits down at table beside the woman responsible for the most contentious meals in living memory, the wise man trims for squall. What I was not prepared for was the quarter from which the wind would gust.

On Monday, Foyle's threw a lunch in honour of Frank Muir and *The Oxford Book of Humorous Prose*, a work which these 17 years past has been his *magnum opus*. It is a Festschrift of a book, immoderately fat, quintessentially English, vulgar and noble by turns, and not only witty in itself but - to judge from the punters reeling about the Grosvenor House premises and helplessly choking on this plum and that - the cause that wit is in other men. There were some 200 of us foregathered to launch it, and a well-oiled slipway we conjointly formed.

I was sitting between Max Jaffa, doyen of fiddlers, and Carla Lane, the great Scoose scriptwriter, neither of them previously known to me. Which direction to turn on such occasions is ever the crux, as indeed it is in life: the choice could change you for ever. It has formed the nub of many a Central European determinist text (moth-eaten man and dog arrive at deserted crossroads, man flips coin, man goes one way, dog the other, you know the sort of thing), but it is no whit less fraught in Park Lane.

Had I plumped for my left-hand option, who knows what might not have transpired? For, as we sat down, the first was thing Max Jaffa said to me was that he had spent his pre-war years in Crichtonville. I sensed a door rolling back upon a treasure-house, but before I could grab my gunny sack and delve, I felt I should at least turn to my right and introduce myself to the inventor of *Bread*. It was a shock: expecting the creator of the battling Boswells to have tattooed forearms and wooden dentures, I was astonished to find an elegant slip of a girl staring mournfully at

her fillet of smoked trout, and sighing.

"Yes, it's infuriating when they serve it without the head, isn't it?" I said, for, faced with a pretty woman, I can be a silver-tongued bastard. "I like poking about for the brain, don't you?"

"I am a vegetarian," she replied. "I know how fish die. Last week, I walked out of my favourite restaurant because they'd put frogs' legs on the menu. They just throw the live bodies in the bin, you know."

She paused, to allow a waiter to replace her trout with a melon. I had a somewhat listless air as my fillet, while Carla told me how they trapped mink. Safe enough ground: I never eat mink. But there was turkey next. I knew that, because the waiter came and asked if Carla wanted turkey, and she went white. Just bring the vegetables, she said.

Mine came. You would never know it was turkey. It was a breaded cutlet, not unlike a giant cornflake. I can probably eat this without inviting too much opprobrium, I thought, when Carla murmured:

"I save pigeons."

"Ah," quipped. Hardly surprising Frank put me in his book and dropped Oscar Wilde. "I go out at night in the car, looking, and if I find one lying about, I bring him home and nurse him. I found one recently with a twisted neck. All he could do was walk round in circles."

I put down my fork.

"When it got better, it wouldn't fly away, I tried to persuade it to, but it hopped on to my shoulder."

Lucky it wasn't a turkey, I thought. I did not, of course, say so. I just showed my cutlet about a bit, because, having finished her veg, Carla was free to look at me. She would see me slicing up the corpse. She would see it vanishing through a hole in my face. I put down my cutlery.

Which at least gave us plenty of opportunity to chat. Vivisection, mad cow disease, the tragedy of the mudworm, the horror of leather, all that and more. As I say, a corking time. After all, I can eat any day.

I might phone Max Jaffa, soon. See if he fancies a spot of lunch.

David Pearce on international haggling over action on global warming - and who should pay

Hot billions riding on warm air

If the quality of life is to improve, the world's economies cannot continue with uninhibited pursuit of economic growth. But the operative word is "uninhibited".

We do not have to surrender growth to achieve a better environment: we have to surrender a little part of it. That is the cost of environmental policy. In return, we secure improvements in the natural fabric of our lives, and, ultimately, in the means of survival. We will also have done something to honour our obligations to the next generations.

The benefits of environmental improvement are fuzzy, difficult to measure, but real. Anyone looking for environmental policy that is all benefit and no cost has missed the point. It is the balance of costs and benefits that matters.

The Bergen conference on sustainable development, which ended this week, is just one of the early arenas in what will be a long and difficult process of international negotiation over the proper policy response to global environmental change. Already, differences of view have emerged over the Montreal Protocol, an

agreement on protecting the ozone layer. The developing world wants compensation for not using chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and rightly so. The cost is small, a few billion dollars. But America now says that no extra funds should be made available for the process of switching into the generally more expensive technologies that will replace CFCs. The developing countries see no reason to co-operate, in the absence of additional funds. The ozone layer problem is not of their making, and the beneficiaries of a successful protocol are nations as a whole.

The international line-up on the ozone layer debate presages what is to come on global warming. It is clear that some consensus on targets for carbon dioxide emissions will emerge later this year. The Second World Climate Conference in November is the natural focus for that discussion. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) will have reported by then and we will have some idea of the levels of warming if no action is taken, and the levels that will be achieved for varying degrees of prevention. Britain's environment minister, David

Trippier, disclosed at the Bergen conference that Britain would have a national strategy for controlling carbon dioxide emissions by then.

But the scientific debate, controversial though much of it is, is unlikely to be the main focus of attention. Behind the United States' attitude to Montreal is the fear of establishing a precedent of digging into its own pockets. There are two concerns. The domestic cost of preventive policies could be high. The President's Council of Economic Advisers recently assessed various economic studies and concluded that CO₂ stabilization could cost at least 1 per cent of GNP per year. To this must be added the additional money necessary to contain the developing world's fast growing emissions of CO₂, which they could not otherwise afford to do.

Worries about costs have been buttressed by several studies suggesting that the lower end of the estimates of the benefits of global warming control - that is, the measurable damage that can be avoided if global warming is stopped - are not very high. Ranges of 0.25 per cent of GNP

through to 2 per cent are quoted. Clearly, GNP gains and losses do not measure all the benefits and costs of containing global warming - some cannot be given economic value - but the calculations have still significantly influenced the debate. If the benefits are 2 per cent of GNP, action is clearly warranted without venturing into the hazardous area of measuring non-GNP gains, such as the effects on biodiversity. If the benefits are only 0.25 per cent, there must be a pause for further reflection. In simple terms, it might, say, be cheaper to build sea walls to cope with rising water levels than to stem the CO₂ emissions.

How then should the world respond to global warming assuming, as seems likely, IPCC confirms its presence? Whatever the targets agreed later this year there are certain safety-first rules of procedure. Global warming is a mass of scientific and economic uncertainty. But it would be irrational to do nothing in the face of uncertainty, especially if the price of being wrong is high, as some people believe. If nothing is done and global warming occurs, some of the impact may be

irreversible: for instance, sea-level rise and some damage to the ecosystem. Yet severe constraint could be unnecessarily expensive in terms of incomes and jobs.

The balance between the two suggests a "no regrets" approach, by beginning with low-cost measures first, such as more energy conservation. As it happens, the actions that could be taken soonest have other benefits too, for example in reducing acid rain emissions. If in 10 years we discover there never was a greenhouse effect caused by man, we shall have lost little or nothing, but we will have gained some cleaner air.

After the low-cost measures come those that will bite harder into the economy and it is these that have alarmed the Americans. But doing nothing because containment is expensive still leaves another cost in the form of the environmental and economic damage from more global warming. There is no real escape. There is no such thing as a free lunch.

The author is professor of economics at University College, London, and a special adviser to the Secretary of State for the Environment. These are his personal views.

Better than sanctions: putting economic pep in Pretoria

Kenneth Costa argues that the success of post-apartheid South Africa depends on conversion to free enterprise

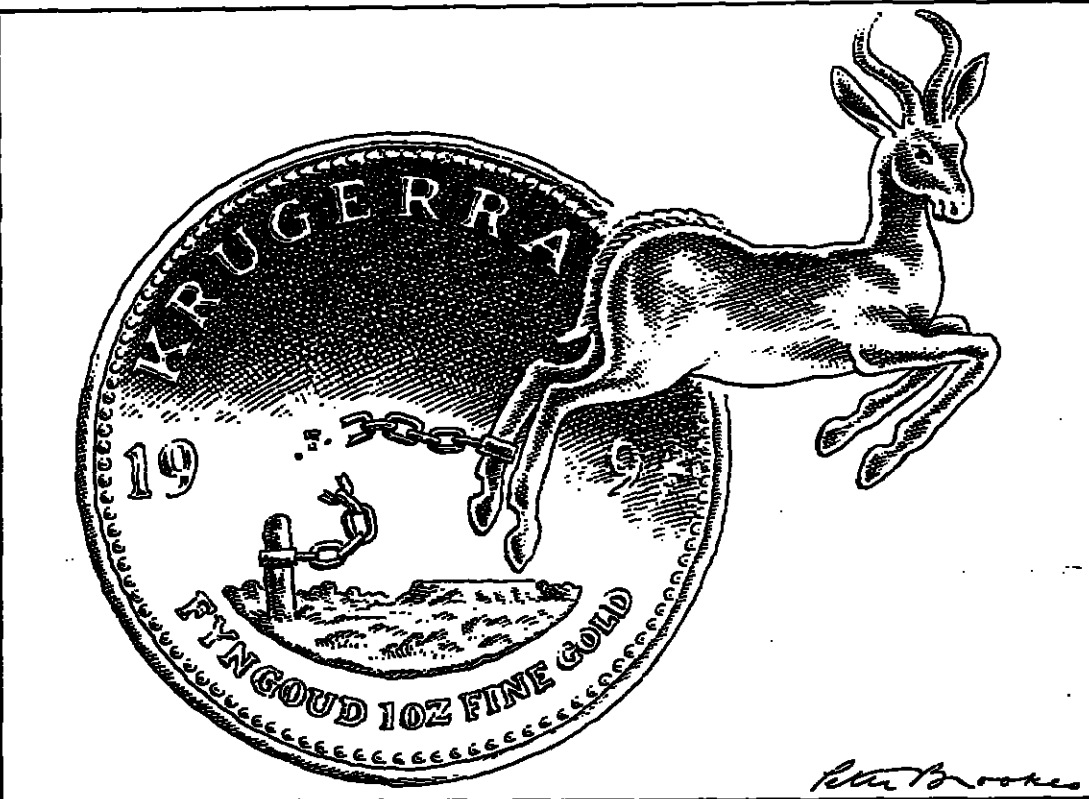
The shape of post-apartheid society, not the debate on sanctions, should now be the key item on the West's political agenda for South Africa. Today's visit by President de Klerk to Britain provides an opportunity to form new political priorities.

Apartheid must be destroyed. That is now common cause, enthusiastically endorsed even by the National Party in South Africa. The enforcement of apartheid has led to a particularly pernicious form of command economy, for it produces an enervating dependence culture. Its fundamental tenets are opposed to the enterprise economy; it is in essence racial socialism.

The costs of maintaining separate amenities has grossly inflated public spending. Not only has apartheid bred big government; the situation has been compounded by the National Party, which has for decades espoused corporatist economics.

Moreover, the intensification of sanctions has increased dirigisme. Direct interference by central government was deemed necessary to ensure that reserves of minerals, oil and other strategic stocks were maintained by the private sector.

It would, therefore, be a tragedy for all South Africans if, as a result of the African National Congress's commitment to nationalization, economic policies now being abandoned in many parts of the world were to add a fresh burden to an already over-regulated South African economy.



The economy is as much in need of radical change as the political institutions. The move towards a market-driven economy will be as difficult for President de Klerk and the National Party to engineer as it is for Nelson Mandela and the ANC to accept.

Whatever constitution emerges will be little more than a skeleton, the flesh for which will be the nature and vigour of the economy. The emergence of a market-led enterprise economy, more than any constitutional document, will best protect the liberty of individuals.

South Africa has the potential, unparalleled in Africa, for economic prosperity. Its resources, its efficiency of distribution, its financial infrastructure and the ingenu-

ity of its people make it fertile ground for an enterprise economy to flourish. To take a small example, in 1984 South Africa filed applications for more than 10,000 new patents, and ranked 13th in the world. Egypt, the next highest in Africa, filed only 382 applications.

Yet the population of South Africa is increasing at about one million per year. Forty per cent of blacks are under 15, compared with 23 per cent of whites. To absorb this number of young people into the economically active population is a formidable challenge. The only hope is a market-led economy, as I argue in Centre for Policy Studies pamphlet, published today.

A growing South African economy is also important as a stimulant for the economies in nearby African states. Western countries too have an interest in ensuring that South Africa's economy grows, and that the country

does not join the list of fallen angels of Africa.

South Africa does not need Marshall Aid. Free from the drain of human capital and resources caused by apartheid and sanctions, a sophisticated economic infrastructure is in place (unlike in many East European countries) and ready to respond to the stimulus of a free market.

There is a misconception view that capitalism is only on the agenda of white South Africans who fear the ANC's proposals. This is not so. Apartheid has been steadily eroded by the growth of a prosperous black middle class with a growing vested interest in the country's future.

The continent's economic problems are dire, as the recent World Bank report shows. So it is vital that South Africa should not - in the name of some political shibboleth - join the post-colonial experience of political freedom and economic dependence. In

Zimbabwe, for example, there have been only three small examples of foreign fixed capital investments since independence.

South Africa needs to cease being a net exporter of capital, which it has been forced to become as a result of the heavy interest payments following the debt moratorium. The situation is not dissimilar to that attacked by Keynes in *The Economic Consequences of the Peace* in the wake of the Versailles burdens on Germany. Sustained diplomatic effort should therefore be co-ordinated by Britain to see South Africa resume its drawing rights from the IMF. The task is urgent. With the easing of the burden of foreign reparations, South Africa could start using its current account surpluses for long-term investment and social spending.

The return of foreign capital is essential, and such guarantees on remittance of capital and freedom from confiscation need to be

discussed in the context of settling the new constitution. As in the recent cases of Chile and New Zealand, the separation from government control of the Reserve Bank of South Africa, with a statutory charter imposing on it a duty to maintain the value of the currency, would help.

The privatization programme announced by Mr de Klerk faces hostility from the ANC, whose official policy is to favour the nationalization of key industries. Mrs Thatcher has shaped the debate on popular capitalism. She needs to encourage Mr de Klerk to maintain a commitment to privatization and rolling back state intervention. Serious consideration should be given to the distribution to all South Africans of equity in these state-owned companies, as a peace dividend.

A new British working party drawing on our experience of popular capitalism and wider share and home ownership should be established to talk both to Mr de Klerk and the ANC. The growth of small, especially-black, businesses in South Africa should be encouraged.

There need be little concern about the potential excesses of a deregulated economy, for there are natural checks already in place. South Africa has a strong Judeo-Christian tradition common to a majority (over 60 per cent) of both blacks and whites.

Concern for community, justice and charity which underlies these values provides the best corrective to, as well as the sustaining power of, a market-led economy. This is especially important in a country as diverse as South Africa.

The apartheid locusts have ravaged South Africa's economy and destroyed many of its people's confidence in their energy and capital. What is now needed is the restoration of the spirit of initiative and enterprise. Increased freedom and enhanced prosperity for all South Africans should be the stuff of the Chequers talks.

The author is a merchant banker and was Conservative candidate for Birkenhead in the last election.

An African Enterprise: Britain and South Africa Post-Sanctions, Post-Apartheid, C.P.S., 8 Wilfred Street, London SW1E 6PL, £4.95.

Treasurer trove

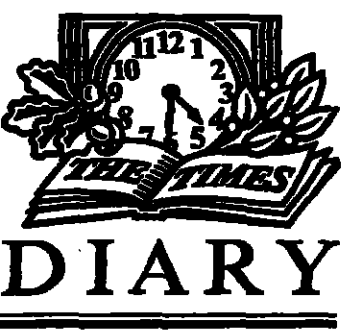
Having raised nearly £1.5 million from the sale over the past two days of the contents of his country house, Lord McAlpine of West Green has set his successors at Conservative Central Office an even stiffer target - £2.5 million to run his next general election campaign.

McAlpine is about to hand over the reins of the party treasurer's job, the job he has held for 15 years. In that time he has filled the Tories' war chest with tens of millions and says that those who will pick up the torch face "an extremely tough task".

The financial wizard and arm-twisting charmer who will now take charge of the money-ticking is Lord Beaverbrook, already part of the Tory treasurer's team, along with Sir Hector Laing, who recently stood down as chairman of United Biscuits. Although Central Office insisted yesterday that "three or four" names were still being considered for the top job, Beaverbrook will take overall responsibility for ensuring that the cash is available for the most expensive political advertising campaign in the history of British politics. A third member of the treasurer's team will also be recruited, and the post may go to Sir Basil Feldman, organizer of the annual Tory party golf tournament. The event is Denis Thatcher's favourite party function, and insiders suggest that, as the job is in the gift of the Prime Minister, he has almost certainly put in a good word.

The new team will need all its ingenuity if it is to top McAlpine's

most famous stunt, buying thousands of copies of the Labour manifesto for the 1983 election and sending them to wealthy Tory supporters wavering over their donations. "Walworth Road thought it was marvellous that it was selling so many, but each one ensured that the money kept pouring into our coffers and helped us win," boasts McAlpine. He stayed away from his house at West Green this week as his treasures came under the auctioneer's hammer, and some mystery surrounds his motive for the auction.



DIARY

golf equipment from Lee Trevino. The most intriguing entry records a gift of a box of glass Christmas ornaments, a shawl and "books for the grandchildren", total value \$125. The generous donor? None other than Mikhail Gorbachev, doing his bit for the burgeoning free trade between East and West.

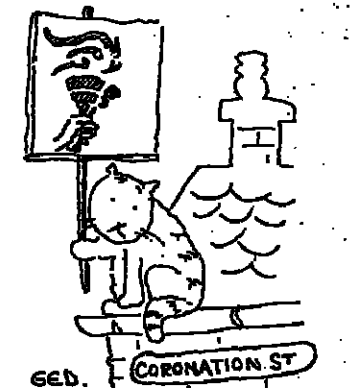
insight into what makes a perfect European was offered by Hywel Ceri Jones, a European Commission official, giving evidence to a House of Lords committee this week. The hope of Brussels, he said, was that EC children would have "the pragmatism of the British, the culinary skills of the French, the world view of the Spanish, the generosity of the Danes, the humour of the Irish, the *jolie de vivre* of the Italians, the discipline of the Germans and the modesty of the Portuguese". However, Ceri Jones reports that some in the Commission take a darker view of the collective future: "The pessimists see the next generation of Europeans as having the world perspective of the Luxembourg-

geois, the generosity of the Dutch, the *jolie de vivre* of the Swedes, the light touch of the Germans, the punctuality of the Italians, the discipline of the Irish, the working hours of the Norwegians and the modesty of the French." The British contribution to this nightmare? "Its cuisine and gift for foreign languages."

● Sticker seen on an expensive car parked outside the Law Courts in the Strand: "Support the law ... sue somebody."

Stuck in the Tube

Blowing the whistle yesterday to launch the Tube Centenary, an exhibition celebrating the 100th birthday of London Underground, transport minister Cecil Parkinson shunted into a siding questions on when his department will approve the construction of three new London Underground lines. It was 100 years ago this year, boasted Wilfred Newton, London Regional Transport's current chairman, that the Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII, opened three-and-a-half miles of the first electric underground railway in the world, on the City and South London line (now the Northern) from King William Street to Stockwell. In a week or two he will also be able to celebrate the centenary of the first complaint, printed in the pages of *The South London Press*: "The company promised to start with a five-minute service of trains and if the traffic demanded it, a three or two-minute service. This it has signally failed to carry out. Ten or fifteen minutes appear to be the ordinary delay ... No matter how great the crowd waiting only one of the



unforeseen effect. Roache was attracted from all quarters, not for his politics, but for leaving his screen wife Deirdre for another woman. Labour, which is planning to counter by parading members of the cast of *Brookside*, Channel 4's rival soap opera, could not conceal its glee. Tory Central Office put a brave face on it. "More people watch *Coronation Street* than *Brookside*," a spokesman said.

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TWO MEN IN A BOAT

In his current lap of honour through the chancelleries of Europe, the South African President, Mr F. W. de Klerk, has been immaculately careful to avoid any direct reference to sanctions. He has been anxious not to raise an issue which would embarrass his hosts and galvanize the worldwide anti-apartheid lobby. He has been content to enjoy the symbolism of international access denied to any white South African leader since Field Marshal Smuts was a member of the War Cabinet 50 years ago.

Instead he has sought to convince his hosts that the changes he has wrought in South Africa are irreversible, and left them to draw their own conclusions. It is doubtful, however, whether Mrs Thatcher will share Mr de Klerk's reticence when she entertains him at Chequers tomorrow. She will have an eye to next month's EC summit in Dublin. The Prime Minister will feel that events in recent months entitle her to say, "I told you so" to one and all and call for the dismantling of such modest economic sanctions as are in place.

Mrs Thatcher's heart will want to play the anti-sanctions card. She has always maintained that sanctions merely hurt the blacks, impede growth and constitute an unwarranted intrusion into the affairs of others. She can argue that not sanctions but the contradictions of apartheid itself have impelled change in South Africa. This change will continue irrespective of foreign action or inaction.

Whether Mrs Thatcher's head should encourage her to carry this policy to its logical conclusion is another matter. Most European countries, and many in Asia, America and black Africa, are already quietly doing what few will admit: letting sanctions wither on the vine. Reopening the sanctions "debate" might simply open up old wounds and encourage a rallying of the anti-apartheid legions to yesterday's agenda. But then those legions will not be content until Mr Nelson Mandela is ensconced in Mr de Klerk's office. The civil rights double standard they operate as between South Africa and its northern neighbours is so glaring that no amount of change is likely to be

enough. For them, South Africa is a crusade without a cause.

The future of South Africa will be decided by South Africans themselves. The South African Government and the African National Congress are now embroiled in the most delicate internal negotiations. Both sides must search each other's souls for agreement, before either party finds itself washed away by the impatient aspirations of black South Africans and the rising tide of white fears.

Here is where the risk and reward equation which is the unstated purpose of Mr de Klerk's trek through Europe comes into play. Thus far his strategy has been to out-pace his opposition on the right, to create a South Africa in which apartheid has been so comprehensively dismantled that Dr Andries Treurnicht and his fearful followers cannot put it together again. In the past week alone, Mr de Klerk's ministers have signalled the end of apartheid hospitals and homelands, of segregated schools and of separate suburbs. They have proclaimed the Population Registration Act to be indefensible.

The promise of a phased readmission to the comity of nations, including a rolling back of sanctions, might not persuade the trigger-happy vigilantes of the right to stop being beastly to blacks. But it would assure an uncertain electorate that change brings more than just the sight of the leader of the South African Communist Party on their television screens. Foreign loans reversing the outflow of capital from South Africa would help to ensure that the end of apartheid will also bring some economic benefits to its non-white victims.

This suggests that Mrs Thatcher might do more than mark time in her talks both with Mr de Klerk and with her EC partners. In a robust simile, the South African Foreign Minister, Mr Pik Botha, recently compared President de Klerk and Mr Mandela to two men in a boat surrounded by the sharks of black rejection and white reaction. The best the West can do is make sure that the boat has a steady wind to keep it on course. If it capsizes, the question will not be how or by whom South Africa is governed, but whether it is governed at all.

AFTER STEVENS

The knowledge that a soldier or policeman has betrayed his trust and not been caught induces a feeling of uneasiness in the public mind. The Stevens report on the leakage of intelligence documents in Northern Ireland has a number of sensible and even encouraging things to say about stopping the leaks. The findings make clear that policemen of the Royal Ulster Constabulary who were involved in slipping information to para-military groups have escaped detection. Ninety-four arrests have been made and there have been 59 charges, but with the exception of two sets of papers on their way to the DPP, none involves officers of the RUC.

The conclusion that flows from Stevens' analysis of what happened is a cheerless one. His team formed the view that, given local conditions, the risk of intelligence seepage could never be eliminated. The Northern Irish police force is almost entirely drawn from a unionist majority under siege from republican terrorism. Repeated attempts to improve the "confessional balance" have come to naught, largely because only a small number of brave Roman Catholics are prepared to run the risk of being killed.

Has a well-meaning inquiry thus been unavoidably neutralized by the silence of the "cultural culture" that prevails in the police force and by communal solidarity? Nationalist politicians were quick to make that judgement, but their view is superficial. In spite of the loose ends, the mainland team inquiry covered a great deal of ground, made a large number of arrests and has produced a devastatingly frank appraisal of faults in the Ulster Defence Regiment. They have ruled out the possibility that there was a large-scale conspiracy to subvert the law by helping para-militaries to kill suspects who were beyond the reach of legal procedure. At least for the moment, the leaks have stopped. All that amounts to more than Mr Peter Robinson's hostile description of the inquiry as a "cynical political exercise".

Counter-terrorism in a divided community such as Northern Ireland places a permanent

question mark over the accountability of those charged with the most sensitive jobs. Even without divided communities, policemen are not immune from corruption. Each new problem must be examined and tackled; fresh dangers will keep coming. The RUC has been investigated at regular intervals over the past 20 years as officers have broken the rules. By and large the investigations have produced results. The extent of this process prompts a wider reflection on the relationship between Northern Ireland's police force and its mainland counterparts.

At the start of the present troubles in 1968, the RUC was an institution cut off from the rest of the United Kingdom. The effect of the work which it has been required to do and of direct rule from Westminster has been an integration of the RUC with the mainland. Since political "integration" is a touchy subject and local pride is involved, few policemen or politicians have drawn attention to this fact.

The end result of the Stalker and Stevens inquiries - whatever detailed mysteries may be left unresolved - has been to make English police forces and Whitehall government departments the guarantors of the quality of policing in Northern Ireland. That is a very long way from the *de facto* autonomy which the RUC enjoyed while there was a local administration at Stormont.

The idea of again devolving a measure of power to a Belfast administration representing both communities is still alive, although only just. In spite of the fashion for merging Northern Ireland into Britain, devolution has pronounced advantages for the special conditions of the province. Given that the control and accountability of police forces is such a sensitive subject, would a British government ever cede the precious power of quality control over policing to local politicians? In the light of recent events such an abrogation may seem undesirable. Or those events may merely indicate the mountains to be climbed before devolution can be contemplated.

NOTHING LIKE A DAME

A Washington judge has decided that Mrs Ann Hopkins was unfairly done out of a partnership with Price Waterhouse. Any businessman on the American east coast who thinks he can dismiss a lady as being too "macho" and get away with it is displaying a curious lack of boardroom judgement.

Not that this was what initially upset Mrs Hopkins. A highly efficient PW employee, she was considered for a partnership eight years ago. She was therefore disappointed shortly afterwards to be told that her nomination had been put "on hold". She promptly sued over sex discrimination.

Only after the litigation started did the reasons for her rejection become plain. Only 27 partners in that palace of accountancy (only 27 partners in that palace of accountancy) had suggested that she should "go to a charm school". She was, they alleged, over-compensating for being female. "Why can't a woman" complained "enjoy 'iggins' be more like a man." One reason may be that most men will not let them.

Some firms are disinclined to take on women because they frequently depart to have children. This means hiring temporary replacements at greater cost or involves a continual turnover of staff. Despite these natural obstacles, however, there are a growing variety of jobs in commerce and in some of the professions where women are beginning to make headway. Even Price Waterhouse in this country now claims that 40 per cent of its annual intake are women, compared with only 5 per cent 18 years ago.

The room they occupy at the top remains limited, for all that. The British Medical Association reported last year, for instance,

that whereas nearly half of all medical graduates were now women, fewer than 1 per cent of general surgeons were female. Not a single female general surgeon had been appointed a consultant in the previous five years.

The Hansard Society Commission report in January identified Parliament, academic life and the law as being the least penetrable male institutions. Despite the triumph of the suffragettes 70 years ago, only 139 women have since become MPs. This puts Britain near the foot of that particular league table among Western parliamentary democracies.

Despite a growing number of women lawyers, Britain has only a handful of senior women judges, no female law lords and only one woman in the Court of Appeal. This means that Britain lags a long way behind other countries, most notably Holland - where a third of the (admittedly part-time) judges are now female. In general women seem to be most successful in small businesses or those inspired by the principles of the free market - advertising, for instance, or journalism and broadcasting. Several national newspapers are now edited by women.

The higher slopes of industry and commerce as well as of most professions remain difficult for a woman to scale. Moreover when she tries to acquire the supposedly male characteristics of controlled aggression, the ability to make swift decisions and the unrelenting pursuit of the objective, she is sometimes criticized for being shrill or, still worse, bitch. For those who complain that women cannot win, the "illegally sexually stereotyped" Mrs Hopkins must seem a shining example of one who has.

A successor for Canterbury see

From the Secretary-General of the General Synod of the Church of England

Sir, Up and down the land individuals and groups are thinking about, and praying about, the forthcoming vacancy in the see of Canterbury and, if they wish, are welcome to make their views known to the Crown Appointments Commission through its secretary. This adds up to a wide-ranging process of consultation, paralleled in many walks of life nowadays. I welcome it.

Within it there is, I submit, a proper place for a modest and measured contribution about the needs and demands of "an impossible job" from those who, in their daily work, see at close quarters the actual doing of the job.

In view of the tone of the letter from Mr Summerville, the Head Master of Westminster School (May 11), it comes as something of a relief that public school headmasters are not now regarded as *expendable* as once they were. But in the field of education it would surely be a particularly harnessed-encrusted governing body which did not sound its staff when the headship of the school comes vacant.

It is over the matter of the needs of the job that, to my mind, consultation is most valuable. When Dr Runcie's successor takes office, he can be assured of the loyal support of all those who serve here; and it is the innumerable and the recent discussion calls that into question which is the most unjust and hurtful aspect of a letter which, had I indeed been looking out of Mr Summerville's window in Dean's Yard, I would prefer not to have written.

Yours faithfully,
W. D. PATTERSON,
Secretary-General,
The General Synod of the Church of England,
Church House,
Great Smith Street, SW1.

From Father Deryck Hansell, SJ
Sir, Dr Runcie's successor at Canterbury could, it seems, be one who is in favour of women priests and of experiments on human embryos, and whose adherence to the doctrine of the Virgin Birth is at best equivocal. Once appointed he would be held to be the candidate most truly representative of the Church of England.

By no means, of course, would all Anglicans be happy about this. Some might also be concerned for that "special relationship" with Rome which could only be further threatened. It would indeed be surprising if prelates of the Catholic and Roman Church were to think it any longer proper to be present at the enthronement in Canterbury Cathedral.

Yours faithfully,
DERYCK HANSELL, SJ,
St Ignatius Church,
27 High Road, N15.

From Mr T. Meeson Morris
Sir, The supporters of a non-English candidate for the archbishopric of Canterbury are falling into the trap of seeing the Archbishop as a kind of Anglican pope. The Pope is elected as head of the whole international Roman communion, and as its highest authority. But the Archbishop of Canterbury is first of all bishop of an English diocese, then primate of all England; only by extension is he the spokesman for the Anglican Church and convenor of the Lambeth Conference.

The appointment of a foreigner to the post would merely reduce the Archbishop's standing as an English bishop and foster centralism in the Church. I remain, etc.,
T. MEESON MORRIS,
New College, Oxford,
May 11.

From the Reverend P. E. Urrell
Sir, Some of the greatest Archbishops of Canterbury have not been bishops who were translated, but priests consecrated straight to the see. The names of Augustine, Theodore, Lanfranc, Anselm, Becket and Cranmer spring immediately to mind.

If the Crown Appointments Commission were to follow the example of the Apostles choosing their first successor (Acts 1:26) and put the name of every priest in the Church of England into a large hat in order to draw out the name of Dr Runcie's successor, who is to say that the result would be worse than the procedure so carefully being adopted? It might even be a great deal better.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP URSELL,
Pusey House, Oxford.

Vetting by police

From the Reverend Ian C. Hawkins

Sir, Your report (May 8) that one million job applications a year are being checked against police files raises a problem in my mind.

Some years ago my younger son and some teaching colleagues were on their way to Scotland for an international. His car was in excellent condition, he was sober and he was driving properly. They were pulled in, by a police car, shortly after crossing the border. After checking them and the car and finding no problems he asked my son's name and date of birth.

The police car radio was used and he informed my son he was on the police files. This was strenuously denied and it was not until the policeman tried to prove it by telling him he had been born in Birmingham that it became clear. My son was born in Sheffield and

Dealing with bogus social workers

From Mr Jim Harding

Sir, Your leading article, "Bogus social workers" (May 15), seems to miss the main issue involved in child protection work and reaches an easy, but potentially damaging, conclusion.

There are two categories of victim of those posing as social workers. In the first category are the parents and children who have been "intervened" by those impersonating social workers. We will all want to extend our sympathy to these families, to support the police in the difficult work they are undertaking to find the perpetrators, and to urge the public to greater vigilance.

The second category of victim are those children who are abused, or are at risk of abuse, and need protection. This protection can best be offered in a climate of trust between families and those who have a responsibility on behalf of society to work with families where children are at risk. Anything that abuses this trust could leave children in danger. Most social workers use their statutory powers with reluctance and would much prefer to work in cooperation with parents and children.

A balance has to be struck between intervention and interference, between a compassionate society and a meddlesome society. Many would agree we have not got the balance right, but until thorough work is done on how far we are prepared to intervene in the lives of families, and to whom we are prepared to give our support in carrying out this work, the present system must be made as effective as possible. The convenience of social work is not the issue; the safety of children is.

Yours faithfully,
JIM HARDING,
(Director of Child Care),
The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children,
67 Saffron Hill, EC1,
May 15.

The poorer poor

From the Director of the Child Poverty Action Group

Sir, David Willetts ("The myth of the even-poorer poor", May 9) is right to be wary about the use of statistics. However, statistics are crucial to our knowledge of the extent and depth of poverty and to our assessment of any Government's claims for its economic and social policies. Unfortunately, there has been no official definition of poverty under this, or any other, Government - unlike, for example, in the United States.

David Willetts may be right to say that "most people" measure their income before housing costs; but "most people" are not poor; those who are often have very little choice about their expenditure on housing, and apparent increases in gross incomes due to higher housing-benefit payments are then swallowed up in these unavoidable housing costs.

When all the sound and fury over statistics has abated, however, the political question - "what degree of hardship is considered intolerable?" - remains the one identified in your leader (May 8). The drab and colourless existence which is all that is possible for many claimants on means-tested benefits should indeed shame "the rest of the

Friendly bin bags

From Mr Michael Plascow

Sir, As a responsible manufacturer, I am amazed at the way in which most of the plastics industry making bin bags confuse the shopper with inaccurate statements as to the bag's composition, printed on their labels.

How can a bin bag be called "environmentally friendly" when it is produced from virgin material in Thailand and then made photo-degradable (i.e., disappearing into a fine powder in strong sunlight), or when only 50 per cent of it is made from recycled factory offcuts?

Legislation should be introduced, as in Germany, to ensure that the only bags available to the shopper are made from 100 per cent recycled UK waste. Such bags carry a large emblem of post-consumer waste; they are totally biodegradable, in that they disintegrate into carbon dioxide, sugar and water when buried; and they are indeed friendly to the environment.

Yours sincerely,
M. PLASLOW,
(Managing Director),
Intalink 92 Ltd.,
2 Churchfield Road,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey,
May 9.

the man on the file had the same surname, identical Christian names and was born on the same day.

Should my son apply for a job and it is checked against police files he will clearly be given no consideration. What is he to do? Tell any prospective employer of this bizarre situation? How can he prove the truth of his position?

If these files must be open to use in this way they should also contain some identification, such as National Insurance number, which will differentiate between people.

Yours sincerely,
IAN C. HAWKINS,
The Vicarage, Nonington,
Dover, Kent.

From Mrs Dawn Cunningham

Sir, The "extraordinary growth" of pre-employment vetting for criminal records, criticized in your leader of May 9 as a violation of

From Mrs Norma Pilliner

Sir, Your editorial appears to blame social workers for the current problem of paedophilia: would-be confidence tricksters. I question whether there are a dozen or so agencies whose "officials" knock on parents' doors, albeit "sometimes". Social workers are not to blame for the extensive responsibilities which they are required to fulfil. As for holding purse strings, it cannot be the fault of social workers that the Government requires them to double as benefits assessors.

May I suggest that whilst the powers of social workers may be "unquantified" to you, they are not so to those with knowledge of what they speak. It is not helpful to anyone to use such a populist expression as a "climate of intimidation"; by whom is this climate acknowledged?

The article appears to me to be intended to appeal to those who cringe at any phrase using the word "social" or "care" but who, I hope, form only a small part of your readership.

Yours, etc.,
NORMA PILLINER,
(Senior assistant solicitor),
London Borough of Sutton,
Civic Offices,
St Nicholas Way,
Sutton, Surrey.

From Mr Brian J. R. Goodchild
Sir, The problem of bogus health inspectors might be speedily resolved if the parents of young children kept the family camera handy placed near the front door. Unaccredited callers are unlikely to agree to pose for a photograph and even a shot of their retreating backs would probably be of great help to the police.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. R. GOODCHILD,
146 Sandgate High Street,
Sandgate,
Folkestone, Kent,
May 16.

community into remedial action", as stated in your leader.

Yours sincerely,
FRAN BENNETT, Director,
Child Poverty Action Group,
4th Floor, 1-5 Bath Street, EC1.

From Mrs Wilfred Gold

Sir, In his article today regarding the statistics showing the relative poverty of the lower paid, David Willetts is somewhat disingenuous when he asserts that "The poor have enjoyed a rise in real incomes broadly in line with that of the whole population".

However the statistics are formulated, one thing is incontrovertible - an increase of 7 per cent on a salary of £300 per week is £21; on £200, £14; and on £75 (approximately the amount of a married couple's state retirement pension) only £5.25.

This means that the gap between income and the inflationary rise of the cost of necessities is relatively far greater for the poorest, yet the price of, for example, bread and meat is the same for all. It is this ever-widening discrepancy to which the Government should address itself.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN GOLD,
11 Squirrels Close,
Woodside Avenue, N12,
May 9.

Napoleon's island

From Mr Martin R. Davies

Sir, Your report (May 10) on the last voyage of HMS St Helena to the island of that name reported Captain Smith as saying: "I know how Napoleon must have felt when he saw the island for the first time in 1815". Captain Smith was remarkably right.

My great-great-uncle, Samuel Decimus Davies, was a midshipman on HMS Northumberland when it took Napoleon to his final exile in 1815. On October 18, while still at anchor off St Helena, he wrote a long letter to his brother, Scrope Berdmore Davies, Byron's intimate friend, describing the voyage in detail. Near the end he says:

"When we came to an anchor, which was the 15th of this month, Napoleon came on deck. Viewed the Rocks, shook his head & walked into the Cabin again. He came out about an hour afterwards. Viewed the Rocks with his Spy Glass for about two hours, & then told the Admiral it was impossible to make his escape. The Ladies said they would rather remain on board than go to such a Rocky Island."

Yours truly,
MARTIN R. DAVIES,
7 Smyth House,
Bridge Road,
Leigh Woods,
Bristol, Avon,
May 10.

civil liberties, can partly be attributed to the unnecessary use of this practice. If, for instance, I wished to apply for a different post with my present employer (a local authority social services department), a further police check would be required if my application were successful. If not, my latest "criminal record" would simply remain submerged in the software.

Multiply this paper-wasting exercise several thousand times throughout the country, and consider the implications of delayed appointments (clearance can sometimes take weeks) and administrative costs. "To err on the side of caution", as your leader observes, is an expensive and farcical error.

Yours sincerely,
DAWN CUNNINGHAM,
5 Trinity Parade,
Frome, Somerset.

Closing beds in NHS hospitals

From the Secretary of King Edward's Hospital Fund for London

Sir, Jill Sherman's report (May 15) and letters in your correspondence column have drawn attention to cuts in NHS services, particularly in and around London. The closure of a further 11 per cent of Inner London beds should come as no surprise in view of the need to contain pay awards and other costs within cash limits.

There is a further problem this year, because the aim is to balance the books in a full sense by April 1991, including creditors, so health authorities cannot so easily use the well-tried device of rolling some expenditure forward into next year.

Three points are worth making. First, this has little to do with the current NHS legislation, except in seeking to ensure a clean handover in April 1991, and is mainly the result of trying to contain expenditure under the old rules.

Second, the new rules could (at least in the short to medium term) have an even more savage impact on London's services than anything we have yet seen. Londoners currently make a disproportionately high use of hospital services, and London's costs are high. At the moment it is not clear how far the new rules will be adjusted to allow for either of these two London characteristics.

Third, the NHS in London does need to change. Those who seek to preserve the status quo in all its particulars do Londoners and the NHS no service. But the pace of change needs to be relatively cautious, to avoid a potentially catastrophic impact on morale and services, and we need a much clearer vision of what a good pattern of service and medical education would look like in London.

Past changes have been piecemeal and finance-driven, as opposed to service-led. The result is a gradual, relentless pressure on the windpipe of almost every London-based NHS institution - change induced by lack of oxygen. That is not a very sensible or constructive way to maintain the best level of services that we can afford, let alone to construct a better pattern.

Somebody needs to take full responsibility for what is intended in London, in the short and the longer term, and for the resulting impact on health care, education and research.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT J. MAXWELL,
Secretary,
King Edward's Hospital Fund for London,
14 Palace Court, W2,
May 15.

No 1 Poultry

From the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects

Sir, The Court of Appeal recently quashed the decision letter of June 8, 1989, from the then Secretary of State for the Environment, Nicholas Ridley, permitting the James Stirling design to be built on No 1 Poultry.

It did so because of the failure of the Secretary of State "to give proper reasons for his decision". This casts doubt on the reliability of decision letters granted by the Secretary of State and is therefore of concern to architects as well as planners and developers. This is especially so as the court did not specify the sort of decision that a Secretary of State would in future be expected to give in considering whether or not to permit demolition of listed buildings.

It is to be hoped that the House of Lords, whose permission, I understand, is being sought for an appeal against the decision of the Court of Appeal, will clarify the position with a definitive judgement.

Yours faithfully,
MAXWELL HUTCHINSON,
President,
Royal Institute of British Architects,
66 Portland Place, W1.

Museum film

From the Director of the Pitt Rivers Museum

Sir, I feel bound to take issue with Sheridan Morley's "review" (May 10) of the Channel 4 film about the Pitt Rivers Museum.

At a time when the creativity and richness of other cultures is last beginning to be valued as it should be and when museums, particularly in the university sector, are under such financial constraints, it is a pity that Morley's main desire seems to be to clever at our expense.

The "geographical junk" to which he refers is actually better-informed people have been aware, a treasure house of international importance.

Yours,
SCHUYLER JONES, Director,
Pitt Rivers Museum,
201 Parks Road,
Oxford,
May 11.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - (071) 782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 17: The Queen this morning visited Royal Air Force Lyneham to mark its 50th Anniversary and one million flying hours of the Royal Air Force Hercules.

Her Majesty was received by The Princess Royal (Honorary Air Commodore) and Group Captain L.S. Corbett (Station Commander) and subsequently viewed Hercules aircraft and displays of support activities.

The Queen planted a commemorative tree and afterwards attended a Service of Commemoration at St. Michael and All Angels Church for its Memorial Window.

Her Majesty was received by the Reverend (Wing Commander) R. Hesketh (Senior Church of England Padre and Parish Priest) and the Bishop of Salisbury (The Right Reverend John Austin Baker).

Afterwards The Queen honoured Group Captain I.S. Corbett with her presence at luncheon in the Officers' Mess. In the afternoon Her Majesty visited the 5th Airborne Brigade on Salisbury Plain to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Airborne Forces.

The Queen, escorted by Brigadier N.W.E. Richardson (Commander, 5th Airborne Brigade), watched parachute descents by the Brigade's Pathfinder Platoon and Leading Parachute Battalion Group, and a helicopter-borne assault by units of the Brigade.

The lady Susan Hussey, Sir Kenneth Scott, Rear-Admiral David Allen, Air Commodore Mr. John Timothy Elworthy, Mr. John Haslam and Wing Commander D. J. Walker, R.A.F., were in attendance.

By command of The Queen, the Lord Reay (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London this evening upon the arrival of The State President of the Republic of South Africa and Mrs. de Klerk and welcomed them on behalf of Her Majesty.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Reay (Lord in Waiting) at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Lord Stewart of Fulham (a former Cabinet Minister) which was held in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 17: The Princess Royal today visited the Conference at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London SW7 and later opened the new Thames Magistrates Court at 58 Bow Road, London, E3.

Captain the Hon. Christopher Knollys, a member of the House of Lords, was in attendance. His Royal Highness this evening attended, as President of the Football Association, the Replay of the Football Association Challenge Cup Final at Wembley Stadium.

Mr. Andrew Palmer was in attendance. **THATCHER HOUSE LODGE**
May 17: Princess Alexandra attended the inaugural Annual Lunch of BEN-Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund, of which Her Royal Highness is Patron, at the Savoy Hotel.

The Lady Mary Muntford was in attendance. Princess Alexandra was represented by Sir Angus Ogilvy at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Lord Stewart of Fulham which was held in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, today.

KENSINGTON PALACE
May 17: The Prince of Wales opened the Valuing the Rainforest Conference organised by the Friends of the Earth at the Royal Geographical

Society, Kensington Gore, SW7. Commander Richard Aylard, Mr. Gerald Ward and Mr. Richard Arber were in attendance.

Subsequently, His Royal Highness gave lunch for the Special Adviser and Secretary of the Environment of Brazil (Dr. Jose Lutzenberger) at Kensington Palace.

The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Red Cross Association, visited the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Society for the Deaf, 22 Forest Road West, Nottingham.

Subsequently, Her Royal Highness opened the Nottingham Indoor Tennis Centre, University Boulevard.

Afterwards, The Princess of Wales visited Raleigh Industries Ltd, Triumph Road.

Finally, Her Royal Highness visited the Bestwood Centre, Bestwood Road, Bulwell.

The Princess of Wales was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Nottinghamshire (Sir Gordon Hobday).

Viscountess Campden and Lieutenant Commander Patrick Jayson RN were in attendance. **KENSINGTON PALACE**
May 17: The Duke of Gloucester this evening attended a Royal Literary Fund Reception and Lecture on the occasion of the Fund's 50th Anniversary at the Royal Society of Arts, London WC2.

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance. The Duchess of Gloucester this morning visited the Edenbridge and District War Memorial Hospital and was received by Rear Admiral Colin Dunlop (Deputy Lieutenant of Kent).

In the afternoon, Her Royal Highness opened the Physic Garden, Petersfield. Later The Duchess of Gloucester visited the Crowthorne Schoolpersons Bike Club at Wavell School, Farborough, and subsequently opened the Rushmore Fire Station, Farnborough, Hampshire.

The Duchess of Gloucester was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Hampshire, (Lt. Col. Sir James Scott, Bt).

Mrs Euan McCorquodale was in attendance. **YORK HOUSE**
ST. JAMES'S PALACE
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OBITUARIES

HIS HONOUR DONALD SUMNER

His Honour Donald Sumner, OBE, QC, a former Conservative Member of Parliament and Circuit Judge died aged 76 on May 12. He was born on August 13, 1913.

WHEN Donald Sumner was selected as Conservative candidate for Orpington in 1955 one of the others on the shortlist was the young Margaret Thatcher, he later recalled going back to see her after the selection and hearing her tell her husband she would never stand again.

However, she went on to be Finchley's MP. On becoming a County Court Judge he was succeeded as MP by Eric Lubbock for the Liberals in an historic contest.

Coming from a successful business family, Sumner was educated at Charterhouse and, following family tradition, at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. There he read history before changing successfully to law in his last year whilst continuing to hunt and ride regularly.

In 1937 he was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn. He had begun to build a varied common law practice when war broke out and he joined up in the Royal Artillery. It was some time before he took a Commission but his abilities were soon recognized and within two years he was a Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant General of the 21st Army Group.

He was mentioned in despatches, and in 1945 was appointed OBE, and awarded

the American Bronze Star, Ordre de la Couronne and Croix de Guerre (Belgium).

After the war he returned to the Bar and quickly established a sound common law practice. In 1950 his interest in politics began when he became a member of Orpington Urban District Council. In 1955 he was selected to fight a Parliamentary by-election for the Orpington constituency by the Conservatives.

He was a popular constituency MP, increasing his



Donald Sumner

majority at each election. He served as a Parliamentary Private Secretary, latterly to the Solicitor General. He was also Assistant Recorder of Plymouth and in 1960 he took Silk.

In October 1961 he became a County Court Judge, the youngest then appointed. This caused the Orpington by-election which Eric Lubbock won for the Liberals with a swing of 23,000 votes thus creating the phenomenon of the much-analysed "Orpington Man, seemingly a new factor in British politics. His years as a County Court Judge and then Circuit Judge in Kent were happy ones. He had time to pursue his country interests, farming at Bethesda, owning and running a fine pheasant shoot near Maidstone, where he was a generous host, and breeding and using gun dogs.

On the Bench he tried only civil claims. He showed great good humour, patience and commonsense. This combined with a deep interest and understanding of people, a natural kindness and a sound knowledge of the law earned him enormous respect and affection from both lawyers and litigants. He was only once successfully appealed. His son Christopher, then at the Bar, took the appeal which he lost in the Court of Appeal but won in the House of Lords.

He retired from full-time sitting in 1982 but was still sitting part-time in 1987 when Christopher was also appointed a Circuit Judge: a father and son to be sitting at the same time was a unique event.

Twelve years ago he made a remarkable recovery from lung cancer and was able to resume his great love of shooting.

He was twice married, having a son and daughter from each marriage.

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SUSAN OLIVER

Susan Oliver, American actress, director and pilot, has died at the Motion Picture Television Hospital in Los Angeles of cancer, aged 53. She was born Charlotte Gercke in New York on February 13, 1937.

SUSAN Oliver's career spanned stage, film and television. But she will probably be most remembered for her appearances in the latter medium in such series as *Peyton Place*, in which she played Ann Howard, *Star Trek* and *Fugitive*.

She was the daughter of a journalist and an astrologer. Her father worked for the United States Information Agency in Tokyo, where she grew up and attended the International College. Subsequently she went to university in the United States and then graduated from the Neighbourhood Playhouse School of Theater in New York.

Her professional acting debut came in Jose Quintana's *Circle in the Square* Theatre production of Schmitzer's *La Ronde*. Her early Broadway credits include *Small War* on *Murray Hill*, and John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*.

Susan Oliver left Broadway when she signed a contract with Warner Brothers. She made her film debut in 1957 in *The Green Eyed Blonde*. She also appeared in, among many other films, *Butterfield 8* (with Elizabeth Taylor), *The Gene Krupa Story* and *The Disorderly Orderly*.

Her most famous role among a score of others on television was Ann Howard in *Peyton Place*. That particular character was killed off in 1966 by being pushed off a cliff near the fictional New England town in question. A

week after leaving the series, Oliver survived a disaster of her own when a Piper Cub plane, piloted by a friend, crashed near Santa Paula, California.

Susan Oliver was accepted into the American Film Institute's Woman's Workshop Program in the 1970s and wrote, produced and directed

the 50-minute video *The Spy Who Came to America*. She also wrote, produced and directed episodes of *MASH*, among other series.

She was an accomplished aviator in her own right, having earned a Pilot of the Year award from the Association of Executive Pilots and winning a number of air races.

In 1983 she published *Odyssey*, a book based on her unsuccessful 1967 attempt to be the first woman to fly a single-engine aircraft from New York to Moscow. She made it as far as Denmark before being denied permission to fly into the USSR.

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She was an accomplished av

ARTS

John Russell Taylor reviews current London exhibitions of work by artists from Poland, past and present

Peculiar and passionate Poles

The man does not look the easiest fellow to get on with. In painting after painting at the Barbican Gallery (Silk Street, London EC2, 071-588 9023, until July 8), in its daring introduction to Poland's great Symbolist Jacek Malczewski, the same face glares out: proud, censorious, bristlingly moustached, increasingly balding, every inch a difficult customer. Which, by all accounts, he was. One is forced to such speculation by the number of self-portraits; few artists, not even Rembrandt or Beckmann, can have been so obsessed with their own features. In any case it is impossible to disentangle the man from his attitudes and political views.

Fortunately, Malczewski is also a compelling painter, so though one is ceaselessly impelled to speculate on the detailed meaning of his symbolism, obligingly the captions spell it out. This contemporary is portrayed in that way, with those pacifying or menacing-looking ladies hemming him in on every side, because of this or that in his life and attitudes; at this point Malczewski was feeling bad about such-and-such an issue, and it is all laid out before us in intricate allegory.

But the explanations do not tell the whole story. All right, so, Erazm Barcz, an art collector, made his money out of salt mines. How is this signified by the generously proportioned naked lady climbing out of the mine in the background? So Stanislaw Bryniarski, a fellow painter, hears the pipes of Pan. How can we tell

whether he is listening, and what this says about the springs of his own inspiration? The caption says Edward Raczyński was distracted from his book by a rout of nymphs and fauns, but is that good or bad, and what does it have to do with his art-collecting?

These questions, happily, do not require explanation. Nor need we know more about the art school dispute which drove Malczewski to paint the astonishing "At the Cemetery" in 1901, in which his bugbears are depicted in half-animal form, rioting in and around an open grave. Or about the long later series in which he made himself the principal character in some kind of obscure Calvary which appears to equate the sufferings of Man and a still-divided Poland with his own misery and disaffection. It is interesting to note, though, that in 1918, when Malczewski finally got a newly independent Poland, he did not like the way it turned out. Though he lived until 1928 (aged 74), by 1922 he was retreating from art, as shown in a symbolic composition "Handing Over the Palette", presumably with less than total equanimity.

One to whom he handed his palette was S.J. Witkiewicz, whose photographs are the subject of a big exhibition at the Photographers' Gallery (Newport Street, London WC2, 071-831 1772, until May 26). For Witkiewicz was considerably more versatile than is shown here. He was a painter - there was an extensive retrospective in Warsaw last year - a novelist, dramatist, philosopher, and national hero who committed



"Handing Over the Palette", from Malczewski: A Vision of Poland at the Barbican

suicide the day the Russian forces marched into a newly-disembodied Poland on September 18, 1939. It is doubtful whether Malczewski could have found much in common with this outrageous whipper-snapper, 31 years younger and definitely of the 20th century. But they both had a passionate, unreasoning attachment to their country, and thought the best way for painting to convey its message was through symbols.

Witkiewicz is known as a photographer primarily for one image: the "Multiple Self-Portrait" taken in St Petersburg 1915-17, which shows five of him sitting round a table. It was endlessly reproduced, and imitated. It is not typical of his photographic work as a whole, though we know only a fragment, left by the receding tide of time. Many pictures were destroyed during the war, and all he took on an intriguing trip to Ceylon and Australia with Malinowski in 1914 seem to have vanished. What is left express an obsessive preoccupation with the human face. Generally taken in

close-up, against a plain background, they look at once slightly primitive and amazingly modern.

One is reminded at moments of the photographs of that other painter and occasional photographer Edward Munch - not so much in the technique as in the vision embodied. Witkiewicz also seems haunted and obsessed.

Other Polish artists are cropping up all over London. At Sandra Higgins, an interesting new basement gallery just off Bond Street, London W1 (071-629 0643), is a group of works, somewhere between painting and relief, by Astri Balaska (until Tuesday). Balaska is too international to be regarded as purely Polish, but in the series of pieces concerned with hands, sometimes outlined or impressed, sometimes modelled and standing out from the surrounding textures with surreal boldness, she seems very Polish. Other, purely abstract pieces evoking the surfaces and colours of earth and rock and sun-baked plateau, say "Spain" to us, and sure enough, after a childhood in England she has indeed lived and

worked for the last 30 years in Spain. But once a Pole, always a Pole.

Even, perhaps, if you began as a Lithuanian. That, at least, seems to be the case with Stasys Eidrigevicius, who has a show of graphics at the Polish Cultural Institute (Portland Place, London W1, 071-636 6032, until May 24), and is the most prominently featured of the Five Contemporary Painters from Warsaw at Merz Contemporary Art (Kenway Rd, SW5, 071-244 6008, until June 16). Eidrigevicius is fascinated by masks and carnival figures, but of the menacing, sinister kind, rather than the *commedia dell'arte*.

Most of his art, whether painting or engraving, poster or bookplate, touches on the grotesque, often with the pathos of Quasimodo. The other four Poles have something of that in common. I particularly liked Pawel Lasik's odd, cartoon-like paintings, like the work of a latterday Polish Hogarth, and Anna Zajac's park and beach scenes, with their distinctively crisp execution. All five are worth a long, hard look.

Tasteless odd-pod

THEATRE

Jeremy Kingston

Vanilla
Lyric Theatre

WHAT aesthetic blindness has fallen upon Harold Pinter that he was persuaded - and some reports say volunteered - to direct this super-banal exposure of the super-rich? When it comes to searching out moral hypocrisy, he enjoys 20-20 vision. Yet he lets his loathing for political tyranny and crass greed blinker his artistic perception.

Here is a play, so he must have reasoned, that will tell people the ghastly truth about monsters like President Marcos, his shoe-crazy wife and the socialites who fawned upon them. For that reason alone it is a play worth doing and I will do it.

So Hayden Griffin is engaged to design a palatial New York bedroom in gilt-edged sage-green relieved with greasy pink. Gwen Humble is invited to play Clelia Climber, an ex-hooker married to a man who made a billion out of toxic waste.

Sian Phillips plays the 13-times married Lady Lucie, and Joanna Lumley, supremely elegant in gold lame set off with a mauve cow-web, will provide the Imelda take-off. Miralda Sumac, passionate for gloves, in flight from the country of the title (rhymes with Manila).

The Climbers are throwing a fabulous thrash at which each guest is to be given a gift - each receiving his own genuinely poor person to take away and gloat over. Now this is quite a clever idea, and it has to be allowed that the author, Jane Stanton Hitchcock, scatters a number of such neat and even pertinent jokes into her play.

Perhaps this is what persuaded Pinter that the plot could be made to work, but more likely it was the trial of Miralda in the second act, holed up in the bedroom when the paupers take over the downstairs. Two Hispanic servants, Jesus and Maria (oh dear), turn out to be Vanillan exiles bent on revenge, and they all convict themselves out of their own mouths. Even the servants, which may pass in the author's mind for dramatic balance.

Theatricality impoverished though this trial is, the queerest feature of the evening is the ironic tone. Jesus's family has been eliminated by Miralda. They include, "My father, my mother, my brothers, my sisters, my grandfathers, my grandmothers, my aunts and my uncles, my first cousin and Hernando. My parrot. I miss him most of all."

Now how are we supposed to understand this? The same goes for Lady Lucie's description of a peasant hunt, and Miralda's habit of executing people for being badly dressed.

Shrewdly aimed, the grotesque can disorientate our responses to great effect - witness *The Visit* - but when scattered so clumsily it becomes merely offensive. Not grapes but grape-pips.

DONALD COOPER



Clelia and Frank Climber (Gwen Humble, Ron Cook) in *Vanilla*

John Russell Taylor's selection from other current shows

OUT OF ST IVES: Few places have exerted a more evident influence on art than St Ives, and one would know Bryan Ingham for an inhabitant at once. But he has learnt well from Ben Nicholson, and his paintings and reliefs are strongly personal and richly textured. Francis Graham-Dixon, 17-18 Great Sutton St, EC1, (071-2540 1962). Until May 27.

WHITE ON OFF-WHITE: Paul Fierler, a most fastidious abstractionist, has also been in Cornwall. But the exquisitely pale and delicate pictures he has painted since the Forties exert a charm all their own. Austin Desmond, Bloomsbury

Square, London WC1 (071-242 4443). Until May 24.

REAL THING: The Manchester show, "The Pursuit of the Real", which concerns British Figurative Art from Sickert to Bacon, is now at the Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-588 9023). Until July 8.

MORE AND NEW: Additional works by Jiri Kolar, collages carrying further his fantastic commentaries on his earlier art. In addition, a fascinating new figurative painter, Donna McLean, who tells you more about the Northern Line than you might wish to know. Albemarle Gallery, Albemarle Street, London W1 (071-355 1880). Until May 25.

Heavy metal? No, platinum

ROCK ALBUMS

David Toop

Soul II Soul: A New Decade 1990 (TEN DIX 90)

THE optimism of Soul II Soul was evident from the title of their first album *Club Classics Vol 1* proposed itself as a timeless artefact, the first contribution to a lengthy career. Positive thinking has limited value unless it is matched by results and the remarkable worldwide success of the group has perhaps saved Jazzie B, their leader and spokesman, from the embarrassment of loudly declared but unfulfilled ambitions.

Now every other record released attempts to duplicate the Soul II Soul formula of a funky, medium-tempo beat, a subterranean base and a lush and dreamy top line. Influenced by reggae, rap, funk and romantic soul, it represents the resolution of extremes. The contrasts of sizzling highs and rumbling bass, raw drum sounds and soaring strings, are all present once again on this keenly-anticipated second album. As before, the songs are not always as memorable as they might be, but the sheer visceral nature of the mixes and the infectious enthusiasm of the project carries them through. In particular, Kym Mazelle's rendition of "Missing You" is particularly impressive and Courtney Pine's acidic soprano saxophone improvisations work beautifully against the lazy, shuffling groove of "Courtney Blows".

Soul II Soul's main attribute is their ability to establish a mood of well-being which leaves the way clear for Jazzie B's now celebrated philosophy of "a happy face, a thumping bass for a loving race", this time expounded on "Get A Life" and "Our Time Has Come Now". The message, like the



Upbeat: Beresford Romeo, aka Jazzie B, of Soul II Soul

music, is simple enough but as the triple platinum sales of the first album have demonstrated, this does not limit a potent appeal.

Eugene Chadbourne: Country Music in the World of Islam (Fundamental SAVE 80)

Eugene Chadbourne began his career as a jazz and improvising guitarist, but became seriously derailed by a discovery of country music. His music now has all the faults and strengths of lone satirists: the wit is acerbic and the music unique but the audience, unfortunately, is tiny. This swipe at American corruption, the idiocies of rock celebrities, Iraqi use of poison gas, the Salman Rushdie affair and numerous other issues of the day is packaged in an amusing parody of the academic approach to ethnic music record-

ings. Chadbourne's whining voice is an acquired taste but the waywardness of the songs is appealing and "Perfume of the Desert", delivered in the style of a truck-driving monologue against the backdrop of guitar noise, has a sombre power.

The Guo Brothers: Yutan (Real World CDR W11)

The Guo Brothers are an amiable and entertaining duo who appear to have endured a difficult apprenticeship before settling in England. One of them served in the Army Orchestra of the People's Republic of China while the other worked in the Peking Film Orchestra. This solid grounding has had no adverse effects upon the picturesque qualities of their playing. Evocative tunes like "Fishing by Lamplight", "Evening Song" and "One Flower" are not always immune to the vapid atmospherics of wildlife documentary soundtracks but the exquisite instrumental skills of the two brothers make this an extremely pleasurable album.

Ashley Maher: HI (Virgin TCV 2811)

It would be a fairly safe bet to assume that the most worn record in Ashley Maher's collection is Joni Mitchell's *The Hissing of Summer Lawns*. Mitchell tried combining her urbane lyrics with African drums on *The Jungle Line*, the success of the experiment remains open to question, but Maher has taken this nub of an idea and expanded it into a collection of 10 songs. The results are not unpleasant, although the hand drums, which give some individuality to the music, tend to be unnecessarily buried under layers of guitars and vocals. Maher's songs, while containing familiar Mitchell trademarks, lack the melodies and the verbal dexterity. Maher could easily be dismissed, yet there is a curiosity value in her debut, and definite potential.

Joker on the loose

TELEVISION

Jasper Rees

CLIVE JAMES made the unique move from television critic to television personality by serving up dry, anthropological observations about Japanese gameshow rituals. Sooner or later someone was bound to have the idea of actually sending him to Japan, as well as to other places he had been merely watching on the box.

But for those who mourn the passing of Clive James of *The Observer*, the truth is that Clive James of the BBC remains the genuine article: nowadays his medium may be the television screen, but he is still doing essentially the same job.

If there were any doubts, they should be allayed by his *Postcard from Miami* (BBC 1) the first part of a second series in which he visits large cities in search of new things to be dry about. At least in the opening missive, it was plain that James still sees the world through square eyes.

Last night's running gag was that even in real life the word Miami should not be mentioned without the word Vice following right behind. James knows the fainty of this but, as he has never been one to sidestep an easy joke when he can dance a merry jig on it, he staved off admitting it until his conclusion and opted in the interim for a lot of cheap cracks about cocaine, cars, boats, bikinis and designer-stubble.

But the singularity of Clive James as a comedian is that he feeds punchlines as generously as he delivers them, a technique faceted in the gag-packed format of *Saturday Night Live*. As a woman in a bikini took him on a speedboat tour of the city's wharfside mansions, he spotted a house with a flag flying outside it at half-mast.

You could almost hear him saying "this joke's on me" as he asked her what it signified. She gratefully responded, reckoning that, as it belonged to a very wealthy doctor, it probably meant that a patient had died without settling a bill.

He did the things the locals do: going on a customs' boat patrol, playing sidekick to a chase-happy cop, water skiing and paragliding. He also talked to a few locals: Don Johnson, Gloria Estefan and Miami journalist, Dave Berry. Much of the rest of the postcard could have been written from the studio, as the thing James does best is write captions for film - a discipline not so distant from reviewing it.

Still, James likes to play up to the incongruity of his glamorous life on location. "Where can I get a suit like that?" he enquired of a suitably togged-up Don Johnson, and then immediately answered his own question: "I'll have to go to Rome."

Guess where next week's postcard comes from. Prepare for 1,000 variations on the nun joke.

Reviving an expressive spirit

DANCE

John Percival

Susanne Linke
The Place

SUSANNE LINKE is a reincarnation of the expressive spirit which fired German dance in the first half of this century. She is also entirely of her own time. That is why the programme she brought to The Place (and to Mayfest) contains a double image, as if one object were being watched through two lenses.

It is a homage to Dore Hoyer, a dancer of the previous generation whose sublimely unconfined, meticulous work inspired Linke to her vocation. The first half of the evening looks back.

First, Linke dances a reconstruction of one of Hoyer's creations: *Affectus Humanus*, four solos invoking victory, greed, fear and love. The movements are mostly small, always precise, the underlying feeling held so tightly under control as to seem almost abstract. The piano score was

composed by Dimitri Wiatowitsch, Hoyer's usual accompanist.

This was followed by *Dolor*, a solo by Linke in a similar style, to Mahler's song "Ich bin der Welt abhanden gekommen" (in Janet Baker's recording), which reaches an image of love in the confrontation of two hands held like bird's heads before the dancer slips away. Hoyer killed herself in 1967, aged 56.

Returning to the present, the second half still reflects the past with *Affekte*, a work in which Linke and her partner Urs

Dietrich evoke the same emotions, as in *Affectus Humanus*, this time with the addition of hate in the middle of the series.

Set to a collage by Dietrich, it uses looks, gestures, and changes of clothes as part of the dance. Especially striking is a black dress in which Linke's arms become trapped and in which Dietrich with one twist bundles her up like rubbish in a bag.

The dance movements are again precise, sharply drawn, but bolder, more urgent: I think more expressive too. At the end, to "Cum Sancto Spiritu" from Bach's *B Minor Mass*, the two dancers run endlessly forward until the light fades. Whatever Linke means by this mysteriously moving image, for me it suggested the way she has picked up the torch of tradition and brought it forward to hand on brighter than ever.

Mature students demonstrate the qualities which won the prizes

CONCERT

Noël Goodwin

Sheppard/Shorr
Purcell Room

IN THE second of the Royal Academy of Music's so-called "Prizewinners' Concerts" this year, Peter Sheppard and Andrew Shorr as a violin and piano partnership must have felt their student days to be some way behind them. Both awarded Leverhulme Fellowships at the Academy, they are well into professional careers which this programme perhaps helped to advance, and for which they were able to bring forward a totally new work by Hans Werner Henze.

Whether plunging the audience into semi-darkness was intended to intensify the effect of his *Five Night-Pieces* I am not sure. They were apparently so named because a Caribbean island holiday proved too noisy for Henze to compose except at dead of night, and

possibly this explains the brevity of the pieces, which were all over inside 10 minutes.

Among them, only the passionate feeling of the opening "Elegie" and the declamatory fervour declining into gentle poetry of the closing "Ode", registered more than a fleeting first impression.

Henze seemed to have taken to heart Stravinsky's dictum that "one should be stingy with music", but Stravinsky's arrange-

ment (helped by the violinist Samuel Dushkin) of his *Divertimento* from *The Fairy's Kiss* is both generous and intriguingly reworked in its violin and piano form. The skilled combination of rhythmic poise and pointed phrasing by both artists on this occasion reflected a pleasure they took in putting varied aspects of technique at the service of music which thrives on zest and delicacy.

The players deployed a full range of romantic style from passionate ardour to wistful tenderness in the seldom-heard, concerto-like Violin Sonata by Respighi. Here, as in Schubert's *C major Fantasia* (D.934) earlier in the programme, both players sustained a heart-warming musicality of present achievement and future potential.

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2pm Mystery Boat Trip - 4 centuries of music
2.30pm Songs & Sonnets - 8 world premieres & leading actors
3.00pm Beethoven Recital - Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich
3.30pm Pianos & Percussion - Katia & Marielle Labèque with Evelyn Glennie and Richard Rodney Bennett
7.30pm Gala Concert - Simon Rattle, John Mauceri, The Philharmonia, Brigitte Fassbaender, Sherrill Milnes, Felicity Lott, Wilford White, and others in excerpts from Der Rosenkavalier, Don Giovanni, Porgy & Bess and Fidelio

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ARTS

Cannes Festival 1990: Films that bridge East and West, Ken Loach's political thriller-documentary set in Northern Ireland, and a masterly performance by Dirk Bogarde. Report by David Robinson

Due respect and star hysteria

There is a lot to be said against the Cannes Festival: the crowds, the brazen commerce, cultural snobbery, star-hysteria (Stallone in town), the pick-pockets and extortionate hotels. To its lasting credit, though, Cannes respects the cultural patrimony of the movies. The Great Hall of the Festival Palace is hung with historic photographs and posters, dominated this year by a massive portrait of Garbo. The retrospectives include a homage to Groucho Marx, whose centenary is this year.

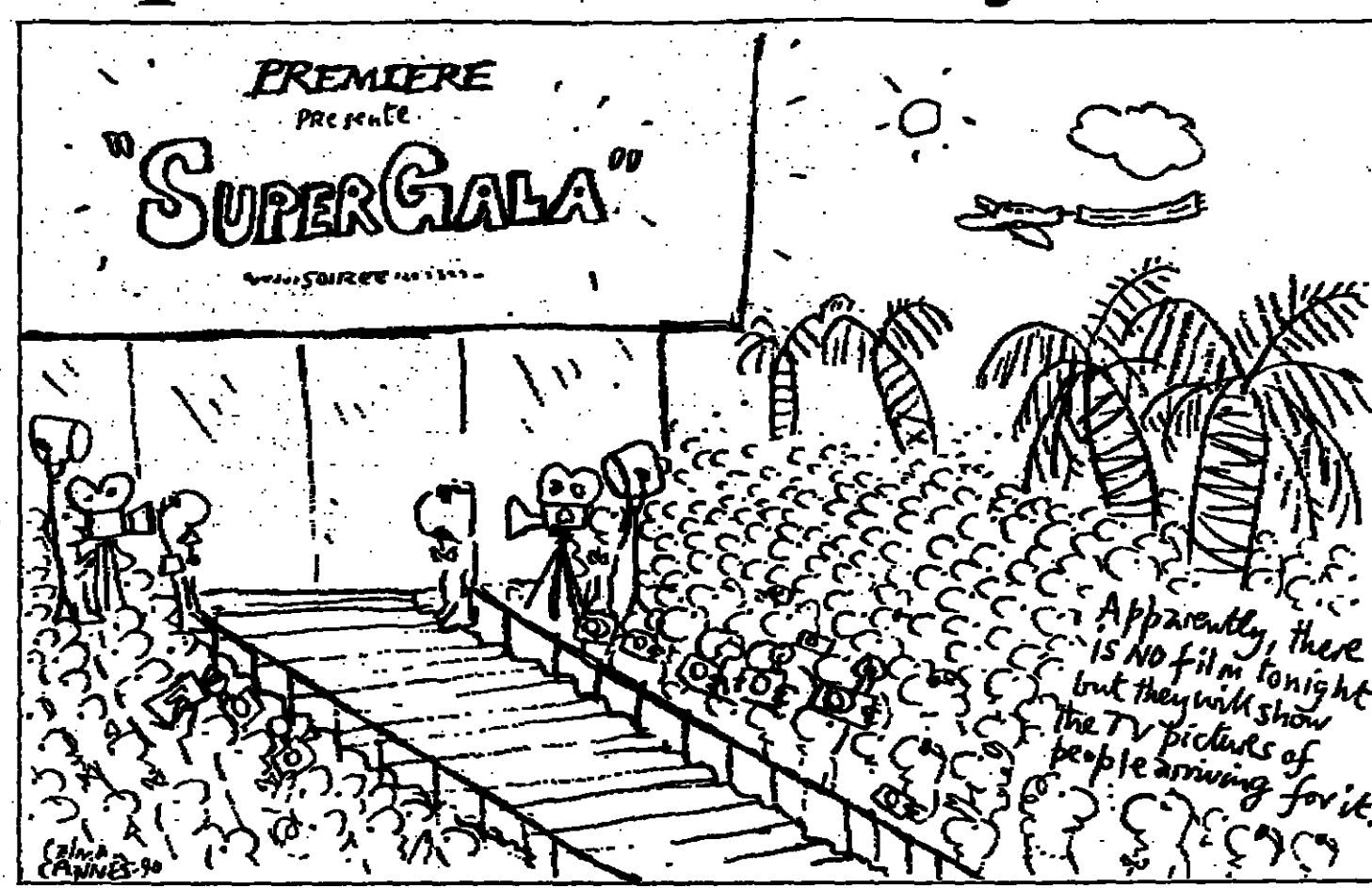
Monday was set aside as the Day of Cinema Patrimony, with Martin Scorsese and Isabella Rossellini leading a conference on the urgency of saving the perilously ephemeral materials of cinema. "Fifty, five hundred or five thousand years from now," said Scorsese, "they'll point a finger and ask, 'Why did they allow so much of it to be lost?'"

The prestigious Rossellini Prize, awarded for outstanding contribution to cinema, was shared by Scorsese and Britain's Kevin Brownlow for their part in saving the heritage. Brownlow's reputation as historian and conservationist is worldwide, so it is ironic that his association with Thames Television - which resulted in such series as *Hollywood* and *The Unknown Chaplin* and in 10 years of presentations of silent film with orchestra, starting with *Napoleon* - has been brought to an end.

There is a quirky tribute to cinema history in the Yugoslav film *Artificial Paradise*, directed by Karpo Godina and celebrating the centenary of the great German director Fritz Lang. It is an imaginative reconstruction of Lang's days as a First World War officer, serving in Slovenia, where he took up sculpture and acquired a taste for cinema through his friendship with the pioneer Slav producer, Karol Gottman.

Cannes is the cinema's equivalent of a summit, and the new Europe is very much in evidence. A conference of what are now called pan-European film-makers has set up an Association of Cinema and Liberty to cement East-West links and as a bulwark (said Madame Mitterrand, who was on hand) "in the defence of, and affirmation of, the rights of man".

At the Berlin Festival in February, the main prize was won by a



Czech film banned for 20 years, *Larks on a String*. The same could happen in Cannes, with Karel Kachyna's *The Ear*, suppressed since the political clamp-down after 1968. The film has lost none of its relevance, nor its power as a horror-comedy of the paranoia of totalitarianism.

From Poland comes *The Interrogation*, the first film of Richard Bugajski, shelved since 1981 and the imposition of martial law. This is a more conventional, but still powerful film about a naive young singer arrested in the Stalinist witch-hunts of 1951, and abused for years to secure false evidence against people she hardly knew.

Unexpectedly, Britain fields a comparable new political thriller, Ken Loach's *Hidden Agenda*. Well received in Cannes, where British cinema is generally considered less inflammatory, it is likely to arouse fierce controversy at home. It is set in Northern Ireland, and there are sure to be knee-jerk charges that it is pro-IRA, which explicitly it is not. Its targets are MI5 and

MI6, and specifically the alleged operations to de-stabilize both the Heath and Wilson governments.

The central character is a CID officer sent to conduct a police investigation, who finds himself increasingly threatened and obstructed as he stumbles on evidence relating to the de-stabilization affair.

The film suffers from its indecision between fiction and documentary speculation, and it is

inclined to harangue. That apart, it is a gripping thriller, with an outstanding performance in the main role by Brian Cox.

British actors are very much in evidence at the festival. Julian Sands plays the lead in the Taviani Brothers' *The Sun at Night*, a plodding adaptation of Tolstoy's *Father Sergius*, with only occasional flashes of the brothers' accustomed vision. Timothy Dalton plays the King of Piedmont,

sacrificing his kingdom for a femme fatale in Axel Corti's dressy French production *The King's Whore*.

However, Dirk Bogarde is unlikely to be surpassed as a contender for best actor prize, for his playing in Bertrand Tavernier's *Daddy Nostalgia*, which confirms Tavernier, after *Life and Nothing More*, as one of the best directors at work in Europe today. Bogarde plays an old English emigre on the Riviera with his French wife, knowing that he has only weeks to live. Jane Birkin is their daughter, visiting to keep them company.

The film records the passing days, the frictions and deceptions of family life, and, through them, evokes the history of their relationships, as sad and unfulfilled as most lives. Very little happens; what makes the film riveting is the precision of Tavernier's observation and the extraordinary inter-playing of Bogarde, Birkin and Odette Laure, in performances where not an intonation or flicker of an eyelid does not count.



Ken Loach (second left) with cast from *Hidden Agenda*

Cannes Diary

Place your bets

With four films yet to screen in the Official Selection, there is still everything to play for in the prize stakes. At this stage, the losers are more obvious than the winners.

Asel Corti's Euro-pudding of a costume-drama, *The King's Whore* (a co-production between France, Austria, the UK and Italy) has failed to titillate anyone, and the Colombian feature *Rodrigue D - No Futuro* has also been the butt of many amusing quips playing on its unfortunate title.

In the light of last year's events, many eyes were on the new crop of East-West collaborations or the indigenous offerings from eastern European countries. But the feeling *sur la rue* seems to be that most Russian entries are too preoccupied with drink and sex. After *Little Vera*, this begins to seem a little like yesterday's hangover.

The critics' pencils run by the daily magazines in Cannes have so far produced two leading contenders - Bertrand Tavernier's *Daddy Nostalgia*, starring Dirk Bogarde, and the Polish entry *The Interrogation* (see David Robinson's review of both, left). But with David Lynch's *Wild at Heart*, Jean-Luc Godard's *Nouvelle Vague*, and a new film, *They're All Doing Fine*, from Giuseppe Tornatore (maker of *Cinema Paradiso*) still to come, only the brave are placing bets.

● A photographer, drifting through one of the many post-screening parties, was stopped by a woman. "Have you seen *Jimmy Woods*?" she asked, with the look of a desperate autograph-hunter. "No, but Michael Douglas is here," said the photographer helpfully. The woman looked puzzled. "But I'm not married to Michael Douglas," she said.

Sly flying

In a festival which is generally low on what the film business calls glitz, all social events were overshadowed by the stars who trooped in for the Caroleo party. Mario Kassar, whose company has been responsible for the *Rambo* (rather than the *Rocky*) part of Sylvester Stallone's career, hosted a party at the Hotel du Cap, and flew in half the cast-list from Caroleo's forthcoming movies.

Sly himself was there; it seems that the strong-man of the movie world has overcome his fear of being hijacked by terrorists if he sets foot in Europe. So was rival musclemann Arnold Schwarzenegger (who stars in Caroleo's *Total Recall*) - directed, with the benefit of a \$40 million budget, by Paul "Robocop" Verhoeven, Michael

Douglas, Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall, and Clint Eastwood.

Eastwood, who watched the \$50,000 firework display from the Caroleo yacht, left the next day on a jet belonging to the rival company, Warner, having completed his publicity duties on *White Hunter, Black Heart*.

The incredible hulk

Caroleo may have persuaded more stars to come to his party, but the prize for the oddest party location goes to Palace Pictures, Wicked Video and Moving Pictures International, who joined forces to invite 1,000 people to a party on board a Russian ship moored off the beach. Some said it was a trawler, others hinted darkly that it had a "scientific research" past. Either way, guests were served wine by genuine Russian sailors, and the more intrepid visitors stumbled down gangways to discover authentic barrels of peeled potatoes, and pyjamas on makeshift washing lines. "This is so real it could be the movies," said one over-awed American producer.

Look who's talking

One daily pleasure has been the serialization in *Screen International* of the forthcoming history of Goldcrest, *My Indecision is Final*, co-authored by Goldcrest founder Jake Eberts and former trade journalist Terry Hott. It has become compulsive reading, especially for those many executives implicated in the story. The only player who comes out with his status intact is Sir Richard Attenborough. Although available here, publication in the UK by Faber and Faber is not due until June.

Hot on the press

The controversy over Ken Loach's "Northern Ireland" film *Hidden Agenda* reached a memorable climax at the press conference following the film's In Competition screening. Alexander Walker, the Ulster-born critic from the London *Evening Standard*, stood up and launched a tirade against the filmmaker, accusing him of such *passé* sins as being a communist.

Loach returned the attack with gusto, and matters heated up still further when a German woman journalist informed the assembled throng that Walker worked for "the most extreme right-wing element in the British press". That is an accolade for which there is much competition; the dispute is likely to bubble merrily for the duration of the festival.

Oscar Moore

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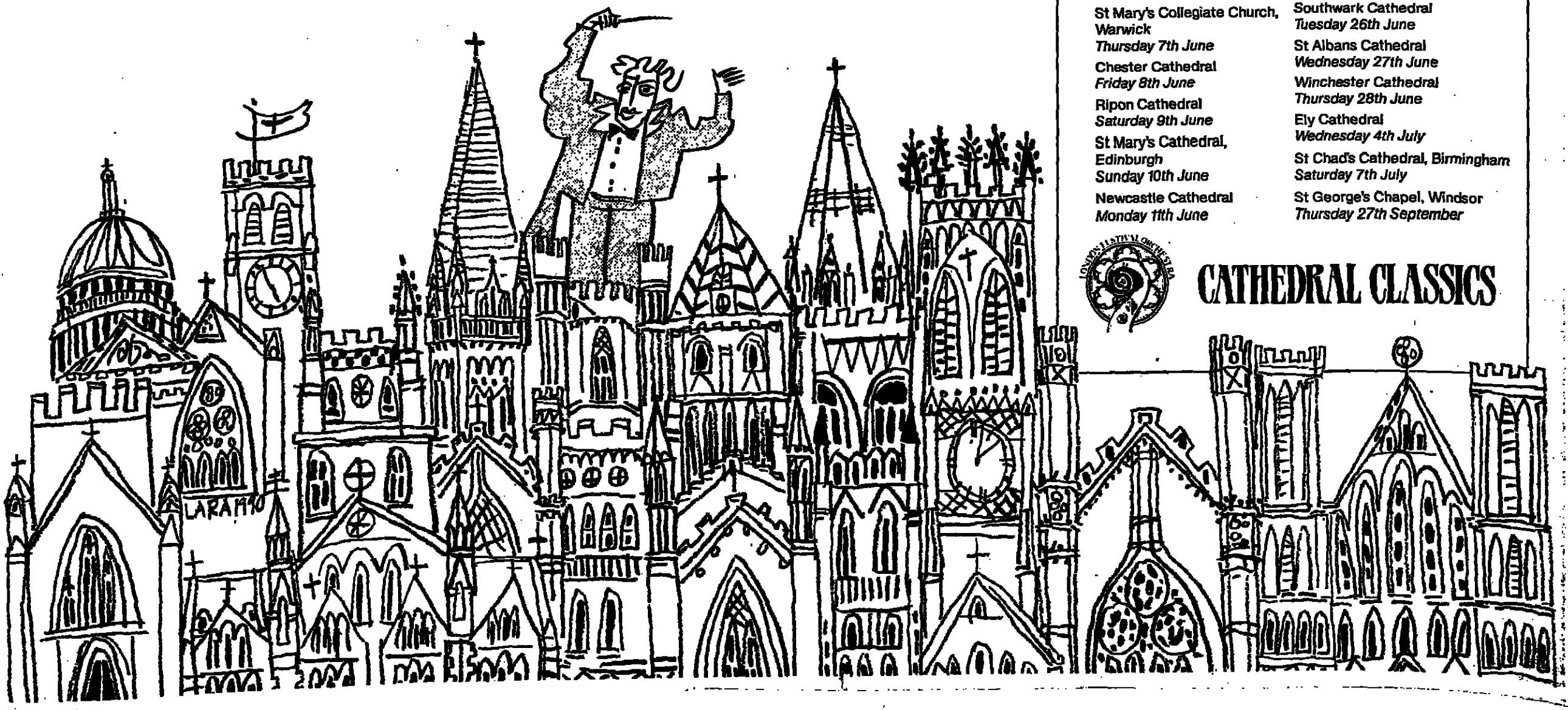
If you'd like a free copy of the Cathedral Classics brochure, please write to Festival Box Office, PO Box 1234, London SW2 2TG or telephone 081-671 7100 (24-hour answerphone).

But hurry. It's such an exciting event that you'll need to book a pew.

British Gas

Glasgow Cathedral Monday 28th May	Carlisle Cathedral Tuesday 12th June
Durham Cathedral Tuesday 29th May	Bradford Cathedral Wednesday 13th June
Nottingham Cathedral Wednesday 30th May	St Asaph Cathedral Thursday 14th June
St Paul's Cathedral Thursday 31st May	Manchester Cathedral Friday 15th June
Rochester Cathedral Saturday 2nd June	Clifton Cathedral, Bristol Tuesday 19th June
Canterbury Cathedral Tuesday 5th June	Llandaff Cathedral Wednesday 20th June
Chichester Cathedral Wednesday 6th June	Lincoln Cathedral Friday 22nd June
St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick Thursday 7th June	Southwark Cathedral Tuesday 26th June
Chester Cathedral Friday 8th June	St Albans Cathedral Wednesday 27th June
Ripon Cathedral Saturday 9th June	Winchester Cathedral Thursday 28th June
St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh Sunday 10th June	Ely Cathedral Wednesday 4th July
Newcastle Cathedral Monday 11th June	St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham Saturday 7th July
	St George's Chapel, Windsor Thursday 27th September

CATHEDRAL CLASSICS



Myths of the school of schools



Eton is celebrating 550 years of effortless superiority. True or false? Former King's Scholar Philip Howard (left) examines some popular preconceptions

Eton College is as rich a source of mythology as Camelot for the mythophile British. On this 550th anniversary of King Henry VI's first step to found his college (by inducing the rector of the parochial church of Eton to resign, and taking over his advowson), let us examine some of its myths.

1. Eton is the nursery of royals. *Myth.* The British Royal family has pointedly avoided its local school down the hill and over the river, perhaps because of Eton's principal benefactions by the two English kings generally agreed to have been off their rockers: Henry VI and George III. Since they were allowed to go to school, Royal princes have been sent to Kurt Hahn's ghastly seminary of cold baths, totalitarian leadership, and rugged individualism at Gordonstoun. It is their loss, not Eton's. Bowes-Lyon boys were sent to Eton, and "Eddie" Kent was an oppidan interested in motor cars. Ill-informed foreign princelings and pseudo-royals are sometimes sent to Eton.

2. Eton is only for the very rich. *Myth.* It was founded specifically to educate 70 "poor and indigent scholars". These King's Scholars are still the heart of the Old Coll. At the age of 12, they sit a difficult but witty Foundation Scholarship examination: we were invited to parse the Latin words *potato* and *beer*. Lavish War Memorial and other bursaries help to pay the fees of the sons of indigent Old Etonians. Two free places are offered to every local education authority. It costs £8,500 a year to send a boy to Eton, but there are still many ways of helping poor and indigent scholars get there.

3. Being an Etonian is a guarantee of success, because it gets one into the magic circle of the most powerful OB network in the business. *Myth.* My election (sc. year) of King's Scholars has turned out: one professor of economics (adviser on policy to the Liberal Democrats), one manager of the Bournemouth bus station, a British Airways pilot, a pioneer computer whizz, two stockbrokers, a City tycoon (his name is Baring, which may help more than Eton), two seriously good teachers (one at a public school, one at a comprehensive). They would have

got there anyway. These are clever boys, by definition. The indigent scholars have traditionally seen teaching as the most noble profession, as it is. Some of them fall so in love with the place that they go from it to King's, Cambridge (Henry VI's other foundation), and then back to Eton to teach, so virtually never leaving. In most of industry (and certainly in journalism), being known as an Etonian is a handicap, because of false expectations of snobbery and wealth it arouses.

4. Well, at least you meet top people at Eton. *Part myth.* You meet all sorts. It is a very big, very old school, so it is not surprising that many of the names in the DNB went there. It was the only school available, unless you sank to Winchester. My first job on *The Times* was a privileged tour of Broadmoor. As in most English institutions, Old Etonians were notably thick on the ground, and noisy. A particularly charming one was editor of the lively house magazine, "My God." I said, crassly, "the governor lets you get away with murder." And he laughed, with the mischievous delight of Lower Sixpenny long ago. I first met the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs looking backwards at him through my legs, while spread-eagled, frightened, over a chair. He was captain of the school. My election of quaking 12-year-olds had been deemed guilty of dumb insolence and "behaving like little tin gods", and were being soundly flogged *en masse* to teach us a lesson. The rest of sixth form sat around gloating through holes in their copies of *The Times*.

5. Eton is the hothouse of flogging, faggery, buggery and fancy dress. *Myth.* The first two have vanished because the new generations of Etonians (correctly) found them barbaric. There are now far more girls and women around other than boys' maids (boys make their own beds these days), who used to be selected for an appearance that was an antidote to desire. Dressing up in a coloured waistcoat and buttonhole as member of Pop is seen as a bit of a frivolous giggle, rather than the most important period of one's life, as it used to be. Those tail coats (first donned in mourning for George III) are indeed daft, but they have the merit of being a neutral uniform,



Eton en fête: tugs and oppidians in top hats, tails and bum-freezers turning out for George III's birthday

An Eton glossary: from Agar's Plough to Waterloo

Agar's Plough: the cricket field used by the Eleven. *et. al.*

Bully: the scrumgame at the Wall and Field Games.

Bum-freezer: a waist-length monkey-jacket, formerly (and cruelly) worn by Etonians shorter than 5ft 2in.

Chambers: morning staff meeting for Head Master and all beaks (teachers) in Upper School.

(M) Dame: housekeeper and matron of a Boys' House; before the appointment of House Masters. Dames ran the Boys' Houses for Oppidians in Eton town.

Dead man's hole: the square drain at the foot of the pepper-pot between the buttresses of School Chapel, the original court for Eton Fives; a ball hit there is dead and a winner.

Eton collar: a broad, stiff white collar worn outside an Eton jacket (see bum-freezer).

Eton crop: a mannish hairstyle, worn by women in imitation of their Etonian brothers in the hermaphroditic Twenties.

Field Game: much the best Etonian game, a combination of rugby and soccer. Played on The Field in winter, which in summer changes its name to Stapestry, and is used for little boys' cricket.

Fly: equivalent of a rugby fly-half at Wall and Field Games.

Furking: hooking at the Wall Game, once a side has reached Good or Bad Calx, the goal areas.

Jordaa: a Thames tributary between Sixpenny and Mesopotamia.

Monarch: ten-oared rowing boat, manned by members of Pop and other ex officio, not necessarily wet-bob bloods in the Procession of Boats.

Oppidan: a "townsperson", i.e. an Etonian who is not a King's Scholar (see tug).

Pop: the Eton Society, a self-electing oligarchy of prefects, who are allowed to wear coloured waistcoats, sponge-bag trousers, butterfly collars, buttonholes, and a blob of sealing wax on their top hats.

Rip: an unsatisfactory piece of work has a rip torn in the top by the beak, and has to be signed by one's House Master; three of them take you on to the Bill, the Head Man's penal interviews towards the end of the morning; you are summoned from your division by one of the praepostors to the *Schadenfreude* of the rest of the div.

Run: if a beak is 15 minutes or

more late for his div, the boys run to School Office; if they get there before him, they are excused the rest of the class. The beak is fined a nominal £1 by the Head Master if his div beats him in the race.

Scog: a person of no account. A scog cap or scogger is the common cap worn by Etonians who have achieved nothing gaudier, blue and white horizontal stripes in summer, blue and black in winter.

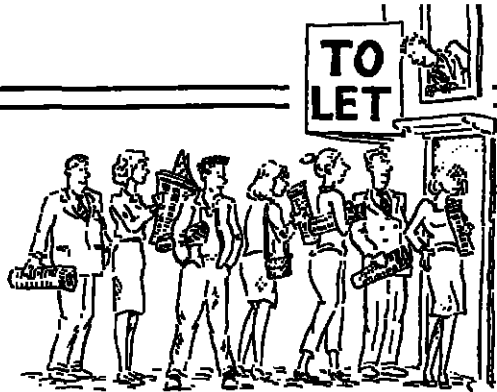
Sock: Etonian slang for "to eat". A sock-shop is a confectioner's. Socking in the street is a hanging offence. To sock somebody is to treat him to something, probably edible, but possibly to give him a hand with his construe.

Strawberry mess: exorbitantly expensive vanilla icecream with strawberries mashed into it; also the red-and-white colours of Upper Coll, the good eggs' swash-buckling cricket XI.

Tag: a King's Scholar, allegedly from *gens togata*, because they wear gowns.

Waterloo: the Duke of Wellington probably never made his attributed remark about the playing fields of Eton; if Charlotte Brontë's hero did say it, he was referring to illicit and bloody bare-knuckle fights behind the Fives Courts.

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LET IT THROUGH THE TIMES

Ear-ring of confidence

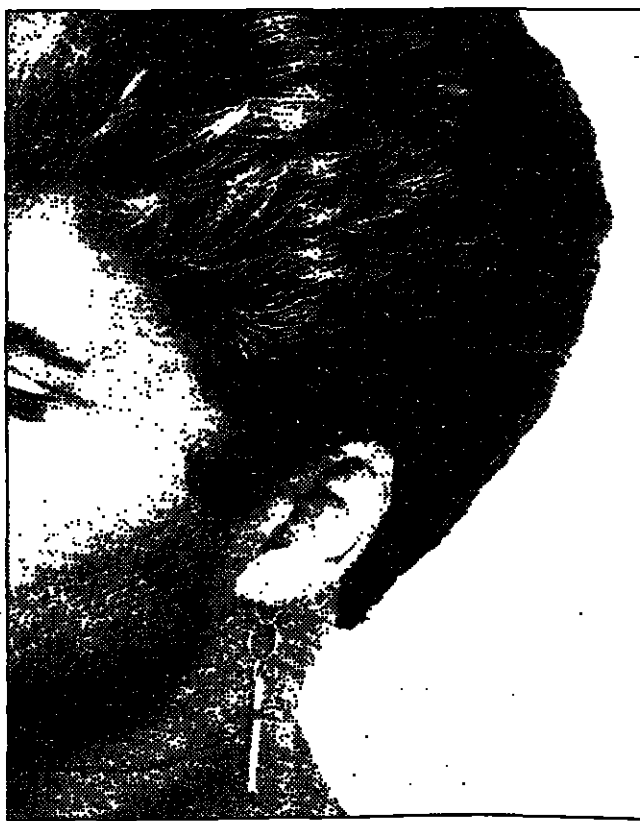
Is the way to a traffic warden's heart through his lobule?

ANCIENT Etruscans and Renaissance noblemen wore ear-rings, a trend also followed by gypsies, pirates, fishermen, pop stars and James Whale. Until the 18th century they were primarily part of male dress and, if Gerald Ratner, the mass-market jeweller, gets his way, they will be reclaimed as such. His new range of men's ear-rings ("gold hoops, or diamond-cut") reached the shops this week and is reported to be doing well: ear-ring sales generally are said to be up 50 per cent on last year.

The important thing about the male ear-ring, the salesmen explain, is that you can buy it singly. Some men, however, are denied this single pleasure. On Monday, the traffic warden authorities in London, despite admitting a shortfall of 299 wardens, defended their rule that wardens must have short hair and not wear ear-rings (although women may wear studs). "Some men," said Ken Pralley, the head of the department, "don't want to conform."

It is worth asking why they should. A traffic warden is a front-line public servant, a lonely figure fighting to stave off the possibility of the ultimate city gridlock by walking around on hard pavements, breathing in poisonous fumes and being insulted by the public. He or she is the scapegoat for all the bad city planning and shortsighted local government decisions made over the decades.

But who is to blame a young man if, to cheer himself up and keep his sense of identity



Cross worth bearing: George Michael shows the way

and personal style, he lets his hair curl down over his collar like Ian McShane's (or Michael Heseltine's, come to that)?

As for ear-rings, who can deny him the chance of a brief, Walter Mitty-esque fantasy of being Pirate Pete, sailing up and looting cars? If the driver gets back half-way through the writing of the ticket and starts abusing him, he can tug his single hoop, metamorphose into James ("rudest man on radio") Whale, and abuse them right back.

The authorities suggest that the rule is a safety one: policemen may not wear ear-rings because thugs might pull them and damage the car; the same goes for wardens. How-

ever, if women are allowed to wear unpullable studs, why not men? And where does the hair regulation come in?

Might not a simple disclaimer of responsibility fit the bill just as well: if you wear a hoop ear-ring, the employer takes no responsibility for relevant injury? Some men would opt to risk it.

The prohibition probably goes deeper, into someone's feeling that a uniformed body of men, however civilian, ought not to diverge from the most conventional of mid-20th century northern European standards of appearance. Tattoos, ear-rings and other adornments strike something close to panic in the hearts of

some men at the age of authority: they close ranks instinctively.

Take Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker of the House of Commons, who this week said that men MPs not wearing ties "do not stand so good a chance of being called to speak".

This is, if you think about it, mildly outrageous: in a democratically elected Parliament, accountable to many millions of people in T-shirts, does the Speaker really have the moral right to discriminate on the basis of a whim?

THERE was a certain irony in the fact that when the traffic warden story was printed, the same day's newspapers carried news of police reluctance to recruit former soldiers into a fast-lane promotion system. "We are not run like the military," a senior officer said. "Nor do we want to be."

He was right: police and, even more so, wardens, are civilian, and proud of it. Perhaps they should, therefore, allow a few civilian standards, such as individuality.

In some areas, a policeman or warden with a really snazzy, star-cut stud ear-ring and a butterfly tattooed on his wrist would achieve more instant rapport with the public than any freshly shaven extra out of *Dixon of Dock Green*.

I remember with some affection a cheerful black traffic cop in San Francisco, who had both an ear-ring and a tattoo and said: "Hey man, if you don't move that car we gonna get a jam here, and we don't wanna jam in this pretty city!"

He carried as much conviction as a dozen stiff, jargon-ridden, joyless young prigs. When I moved, he wished me a nice day, and I believed him.

Libby Purves

When obeying orders makes the law an ass



Winning combination: Jean Stevenson and Emma Lubbeck, who have achieved success at Price Waterhouse in London

Ann Hopkins missed promotion because she was thought too macho. This week she won a famous victory, Susan Ellicott reports

Miss Hopkins does swear and give the impression that she does not suffer fools gladly. But once you have met the straight-talking, humorous mother of three, the

In London, Price Waterhouse has 11 female partners. Jeannette Stevenson says she has never experienced prejudice during her time with the company. Mr.

The judge said he would order Price Waterhouse not to retaliate against Miss Hopkins for suing the firm if she were to rejoin. Miss Hopkins is unlikely to require such protection: "I'm not the least bit afraid of getting in to-a snail's pit."

The difficulty with this charge is evident. Mr. Finta acted under the law as it then was. As an officer of the Royal Gendarmerie, he had sworn an oath of allegiance to Admiral Horthy, the Regent of Hungary. His orders came from people who were serving under Horthy. Perhaps Mr. Finta should have known that the Jews were going to be exterminated, but then many Jews themselves did not know. The authorities at the time insisted that such "allegations" were being taken to labour camps only for the duration of the war. Maintaining this illusion seemed an important which is why, I suppose, the Nazis had the inscription *Arbeit Macht Frei* — "Work Makes You Free" — over the death camps.



The House of Lords will vote on the War Crimes Bill next week when it is expected to be defeated. Some suspect that many of the votes against the bill will not be on moral grounds, but rather out of dislike of the Jewish lobby. This may be. But just as I detach myself from the hideous motives of the pro-Nazi groups that are against war crimes trials, so I think I must ignore the individual motivation of some peers.

The original position of law that it could prosecute crimes that took place somewhere else — seems to me to show human wisdom at its best. We understood the danger of prosecuting people whose actions took place in another climate, at another time. We understood, I think, that a great many things *pass rez* — does not pass in a vacuum. We recognized that people at a time and geographical remove might be unjustified under our normal procedures. We held the view that justice was not to be served by corrupting the procedures in the name of justice. To forget this was to show that we have learned nothing. I put my trust in the House of Lords.

Canadian citizens to say that although the Japanese-Canadian deportations were harsh, those conditions were light years away from the nightmare of the Jews. But the principle remains precisely the same: if you prosecute one you cannot fail to prosecute the other without rendering the law and justice meaningless. I have no brief for gas chambers or the stripes, but I know how they can be used criminally responsible for carrying out a set of orders that unlike murder, torture or theft for personal gain, are not in themselves criminal acts.

Meanwhile, last Tuesday, I screened a powerful documentary that concluded that the conviction of John Demjanjuk as Issac was a

In a class of his own

Sherrill Milnes has established his reputation as a great baritone on stages in New York, Milan — and Solihull



Song of joy: Sherrill Milnes tells students they must sweat

"Don't be in such a hurry to get to the big ponds," he tells young singers. "They are full of would-be career singers all competing, all hustling. Move too soon and you will not make as good a first impression as you might if you had developed a little more."

Now aged 55, the man is generally acknowledged


have the most thrilling baritone voice of the age was almost 30 when he went to the bright lights of New York, and his first contract at the Met. By then he had crooned with dancebands and sung in churches. "I was a real hustler of my voice, and worked it hard," he says. The important

thing, he tells hopefuls, is to "sing anywhere and everywhere you can — whether it pays money or not".

Joseph Ward, head of vocal studies at the RNCM, says: "He has not made any money out of our classes, he does them for expenses alone. It is wonderful when a singer of his

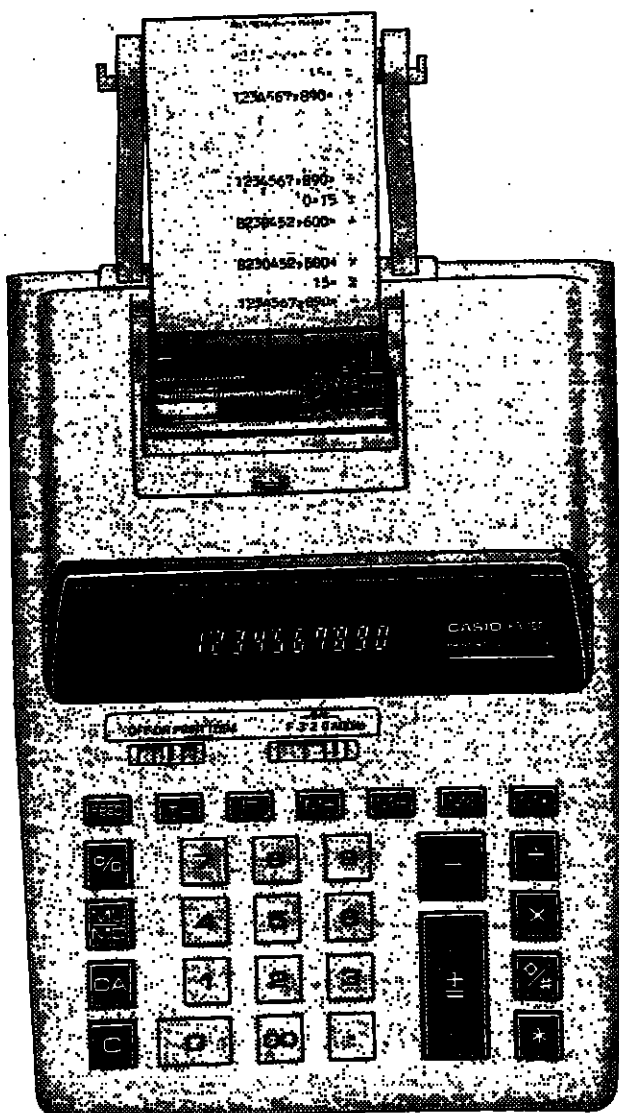
Victoria McK
Sherrill Milne
masterclasses will be held at the Commonwealth Institute in London from 11am to 2pm, 3pm to 6pm, tomorrow & Sunday. At 8pm tomorrow will show his documentary 'I on the life of Verdi and dis his career'. Tickets range from for individual sessions to £25 for the weekend (telephone 071-4273 or 071-603 4535).

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IN COLOUR

"The greatest blessing I've had is to know what I wanted to do, and find the world would let me do it." Tomorrow, Sir Peter Hall reveals his past

[illegible]

FRIDAY MAY 18 1990

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8910 (+0.0135)
W German mark
2.7850 (+0.0281)
Exchange index
88.1 (+0.7)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1795.7 (+55.9)
FT-SE 100
2844.4 (+63.3)
USM (Datastream)
130.88 (+0.59)
Market report, page 33

Extra time
to rescue
Sock Shop

ADMINISTRATORS at Sock Shop have won another three months to hatch a rescue deal. Relaxation of the deadline falling on Monday had been expected, or the company would have collapsed, but there was surprise at the length of time given by the court. The administrators, BDO Binder Hamlyn, brought in three months ago, are thought to be talking to overseas investors.

Laporte call
Laporte, the chemicals manufacturer, is raising £144 million via a one-for-four rights issue at 42.5p. It says that has been looking at opportunities for expansion.

Temps, page 26

Bank 4% ahead

Bank of Ireland increased pre-tax profits by 4 per cent to £134 million (£130 million) in the year to end-March. The final dividend is 17p, making 17.1p, up 17 per cent.

Temps, page 26

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2838.10 (+13.42)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	32061.80 (+93.98)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2917.63 (+31.28)
Amsterdam	CEX Tendency	1197 (+1.4)
Frankfurt	DAX	1481.6 (+12.2)
Brussels	Brussels	1841.58 (+0.19)
Geneva	Genève	6163.50 (+4.94)
Paris	CAC	6810 (+2.9)
Zurich	SKA Gen	623.0 (+4.6)
London	FT-SE 100	2844.4 (+63.3)
FT-SE 250		1228.85 (+31.01)
FT Gold Mines		217.1 (+0.9)
FT Phad Interest		85.93 (+0.80)
FT Govt Secs		78.49 (+1.58)

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:		
Alfred Lyons	485p (+16p)	
Grand Met	580p (+15p)	
Guinness	581p (+20p)	
Royal	483p (+31p)	
Rank Organisation	780p (+15p)	
Rockland	572p (+15p)	
RMG	681p (+20p)	
BOC	542p (+23p)	
Reed International	424p (+15p)	
Fosco	254p (+15p)	
STUS 'A'	581p (+20p)	
P & O Ltd	601p (+23p)	
GNV	372p (+18p)	
Christie Int	500p (+25p)	
Cash & Weller	517p (+15p)	
Glaxo	801p (+18p)	
Clidbury-Schwab	336p (+15p)	
Commercial Union	471p (+15p)	
FALLS:		
Wespac	222p (-17p)	
Thames & Dandy	140p (-10p)	
Chasing prices		
Barracuda	30901	
SEAG Volume	645.4m	

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base	15%
3-month interbank 15	15%
3-month sterling bill 14 1/2	14 1/2%
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds 8 1/2	
3-month Treasury bill 7 5/8	7 5/8%
30-year bond 10 1/2	10 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£/\$ 1.8910	\$/£ 0.5288
£/DM 2.7850	DM/£ 0.3592
£/Sfr 2.3758	Sfr/£ 0.4210
£/FFr 3842	FFr/£ 0.2602
£/Yen 257.20	Yen/£ 0.0039
£/Index 88.1	Index/£ 1.1351
ECU £0.737105	SDR £0.790273
£/ECU 1.356858	SDR/£ 1.266385

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$368.10 pm \$369.20	
Close \$369.00-369.50 (\$218.50-219.00)	
New York:	
Open \$369.70-370.20	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brut (Jun) ...	\$17.70/bbl (\$17.80)
Temples latest trading price	

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Antwerp	2.34	2.18
Austria	28.45	18.15
Belgium	82.50	58.50
Canada	2.035	1.985
Denmark	11.15	10.45
France	6.51	6.17
Germany	2.955	2.725
Greece	381	351
Hong Kong	10.81	10.21
India	1.022	1.022
Italy	2145	2015
Japan	275	267.5
Malaysia	3.245	3.085
Norway	11.24	10.84
Portugal	20.85	19.85
Spain	161.50	163.50
Sweden	10.81	10.21
Switzerland	2.485	2.335
Taiwan	4.480	4.080
USA	1.77	1.67
Yugoslavia	24.90	17.50

Major support
for ERM entry
boosts shares

By Our City Staff

MR JOHN Major, the Chancellor, said he is sure Britain will benefit from joining the European Exchange Rate Mechanism, and will "most certainly" join it when the Government's conditions are met.

He made the comments, some of his most positive yet on the ERM, in a speech to the 25th annual dinner of the Confederation of British Industry in London. He gave warning, however, that the mechanism "will not remove the need for a tight monetary policy. It is an added discipline, which will reinforce domestic monetary restraint."

The upbeat note echoed an interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, in which he said that "Britain is a pretty convinced European," and that "anybody who thinks we're playing with this as a gesture is wrong."

Hopes for Britain's early entry into the ERM boosted the pound and share prices in the City. The FT-SE 100 index finished the day 63.3 points stronger at 2,844.4, its biggest one-day rise for two and a half years. Sterling was the most buoyant currency in world markets, rising 1.35 cents against the dollar to \$1.8910 and 2.81 pence against the DM2.7851. In terms of the Bank of England's effective rate index, it closed up 0.7 at 88.1.

Whitehall insiders said the Chancellor's words were not intended to indicate any change of step in the Government's position on the ERM. But they indicated that the interview should be seen in the context of a more positive attitude towards Europe.

Interest rates in the money market fell on sterling's strength, giving an indication of the potential effect of joining the ERM. At one stage, they dipped below base rates of 15 per cent. The Bank of England, however, then lent to the market at 15 per cent, which was interpreted as a restraining gesture.

The sudden revival of enthusiasm for equities found market-makers without the stock to offer buyers, and prices were forced up across a broad front. Institutional investors are sitting on substantial cash holdings, and appear to have taken the latest comments on ERM membership as the trigger to start buying leading internationally traded equities. The buying later began to feed on itself.

The International Stock Exchange said £9 billion had been added to the value of London shares, while Datastream, the information group, estimated the gain at £11 billion.

As buyers piled in during the afternoon session, the volume of shares traded rose to 645.4 million, the highest turnover since the short-lived mini boom at the beginning of the year. Average Seaq turnover in May has been 377.4 million shares.

Demand was mainly from domestic investors, although there were reports of determined Japanese buying.

International issues were the main beneficiaries, with ICI improving 15p to £11.58p and Reuters rising 50p to £11.68p. Among the privatization shares, the star performer was British Telecom, which rose 14p to 280p. BP rose 6p to 330p; British Gas improved 6p to 217p; and British Steel added 2p to 147p.

It is likely that, far from being welcomed by market-makers, the rise in leading shares will have cost many firms large amounts of money. Mr Nick Knight, equity strategist with Nomura Research Institute, said: "There will be grown men crying in the street after today."

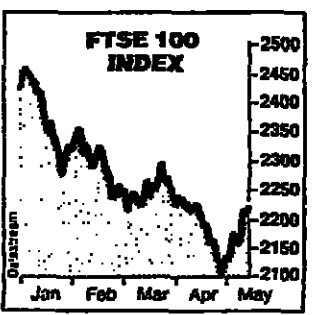
Meanwhile, Mr Major's most important remaining condition for ERM membership is to bring Britain's inflation into line with the European average, and he devoted much of his CBI speech to the subject of inflation.

High interest rates were bearing down on inflation, but he gave warning that demand needed to stay cool for some time while Britain "works off its inflationary hangover."

The speech repeated the Government's plea to end high wage settlements. "Higher pay and higher costs squeeze profits and inevitably lead to higher unemployment," said Mr Major, referring to the rise in the jobless figure to 11.1 per cent, which he said applied as much to management's salaries as to those of the workforce, he added.

Mr Major also welcomed the export opportunities offered by Eastern Europe.

Comment, page 27



Profits up, but jobs cut



Sticking with brewing tradition: Samuel Whitbread, the chairman of Whitbread

Whitbread
blames
MMC for
dismissals

By Martin Waller

WHITBREAD and Company, one of the country's biggest brewers, is axing as many as 1,000 jobs, blaming the shake-up in the brewing industry caused by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report into the tied house system.

The job losses were announced as it reported pre-tax profits up from £223.2 million to £260.2 million in the 53 weeks to February 25 and a final dividend of 11p, raising the total from 12.55p to 14.8p.

Mr Peter Jarvis, the chief executive, said about 45 senior managers out of 200 within the company had already been told they would be made redundant. Another 900 to 1,000 jobs would go as the company as it is restructured.

Whitbread employed about 31,000 full-time staff and slightly more part-timers at the end of the financial year. Mr Jarvis refused to give further details of how Whitbread will meet the requirements of the MMC ruling. It is providing £45 million for the reorganization, mainly for redundancies. Whitbread has to slim its tied and managed estate as it remains committed to its brewing operations.

"We may sell possibly a small group of pubs to someone, but essentially we will be dealing on an individual basis," Mr Jarvis said.

Because of the need to give tenants notice, it effectively has 18 months to comply with the MMC report. Almost all the redundancies are likely to come in this financial year.

Temps, page 26

Auditors
criticized
ISC's
accounts

By Angela Mackay

INTERNATIONAL Signal & Control's auditors, Peat Marwick McLintock, criticized the company's accounts and demanded internal reforms just one month before Ferranti International paid £460 million for ISC, according to evidence submitted by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In a federal court in Pennsylvania, an FBI agent referred to an independent report compiled in early 1989 by a Washington legal firm at the request of Mr William Clark, ISC's former lawyer.

The firm, Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur, were asked to advise of liability of executives when they suspect "less than accurate" written and oral financial representations.

According to evidence submitted to the court, two of ISC's finance officers, Mr James Deitch, ISC's controller, and Mr Michael Liddick, company treasurer, asked Mr Clark for advice particularly after a "long-simmering disagreement between top management and ISC's outside auditors (Peat Marwick) resulted in a warning letter dated August 5, 1987, in which the auditors criticized certain relevant aspects of internal financial and accounting controls and demanded reforms."

Ferranti was forced to sell £400 million of assets after the company revealed it had been the victim of an alleged fraud by ISC companies.

The US Internal Revenue Service said Mr James Guerin, ISC's founder and the former deputy chairman of Ferranti, had directed a \$1 billion military contracts fraud during the 1980s, while the FBI said he had masterminded a scheme to export weapons illegally to South Africa.

Ferranti has sued Peat Marwick for negligence, plus Mr Guerin and eight others, and Panamanian companies to try and recoup lost funds.

Mr Deitch and Mr Liddick told Mr Clark that they were convinced top management was "overstating both actual and expected earnings under certain contracts with foreign parties for defence items," according to a confidential report compiled by the Washington firm.

"Such representations would certainly have been of interest to Ferranti in considering whether to go ahead with the recent merger and the price they were willing to pay," the report said.

City cool over rescue
package for Coloroll

CANDOVER Investments, the management buyout specialist, has emerged as the possible saviour of Coloroll, the debt-ridden home furnishings group formerly run by Mr John Ashcroft.

But its plans, which do not comprise an MBO, but involve the purchase of the group by a new unquoted vehicle and diluting existing shareholders' interests, cut no ice with the market: Coloroll shares fell to 7p before ending down 3p at 8p.

Meanwhile, Mr Peter Gyllenhammar and Proventus International, the investment house, both of Sweden, have 5 per cent of the company and are attempting their own rescue. They have requested detailed financial information on the company.

The proposals, which leave ordinary shareholders in an unattractive position, but appear to be the best that could be obtained by SG Warburg, the merchant bank, after weeks of negotiations, were immediately attacked by one large investor. "If this is the best value that can be found in the company for the existing shareholders, then it's truly a very sad day," he said.

Temps, page 26

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Banker sees Ecu evolving as a currency in its own right
Call for European Monetary Fund

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

IN A new twist to British proposals for European Monetary Union, an influential City body suggests there should eventually be a European Monetary Fund rather than a European central bank. It would be owned by the community's national central banks and would promote the ecu as a free-standing currency on the foreign exchanges.

The new initiative is being promoted by Sir Michael Butler, a former British ambassador to the community and now a director of Hambros Bank, on behalf of the European committee of the City's Invisible Exports Council.

In the new vein opened by Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, in a speech in Salzburg last week, Sir Michael acknowledges the British Government's preference for an evolutionary approach to monetary

union based on co-ordination between national monetary authorities has little backing from other member states. He therefore aims to create institutional arrangements which will embody the evolutionary approach.

The proposed EMF would operate the ecu as a currency in its own right rather than a "basket" average of national currencies. It would aim to be as strong as the strongest currency in the EMS, based on its own interest rate structure and foreign exchange intervention. The ecu would be freely convertible into any national community currency, though not necessarily on fixed terms initially.

The supply of ecus would therefore be backed by pooled foreign exchange reserves plus deposits of national currency, based on the amount of national currencies citizens wished to convert into ecus. The scheme theoretically preserves the Treasury's idea that national currencies should compete, but

recognizes this would result in the mark becoming the single European currency and this would not be politically acceptable. Since the EMF would have to maintain the ecu as equal to the strongest currency, it would in practice lead to the ecu becoming the single European currency.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton argued for foreign exchange transactions to be conducted by national central banks. Sir Michael said he saw the proposals as complementary but he would like to see existing national currency values abolished and each revalued to equal one ecu.

The scheme does not specify whether the EMF should have a nominal target for money supply growth, which Mr Leigh-Pemberton rejected. But it suggests the EMF should operate in conjunction with the co-ordinating committee of community central bankers and might impose discipline on national monetary authorities.

Job losses curtail Whitbread cheer

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission has had to carry any number of cans over the years, so the responsibility for another 1,000 lost jobs should not be too heavy a burden to bear.

Whitbread is claiming that the restructuring needed in the light of the changes in the industry will mean a hefty redundancy programme, taking in even some old and faithful retainers of the dynasty, not to say feudal, brewing combine.

The news overshadowed some excellent figures, which Mr Sam Whitbread, the chairman, unveiled yesterday, continuing the trend in a sector which can look forward to a boost from this spring's unseasonal weather.

Pre-tax profits were up by £37 million to £260.2 million in the 53 weeks to February 25, after property profits rose from £24.8 million to £33.4 million. Whitbread took a £369 million extraordinary gain below the line from the sale this year of its spirits division, including the Beefeater and Long John Scotch brands, to Allied-Lyons.

This was offset by the £44.6 million Whitbread says the proposed reorganization and job losses will cost, mostly in the form of redundancy payments. There is an unwelcome suspicion in the City that the hated MMC report is carrying the blame for a slimming programme some of which would have been needed in any case. Certainly, the possibility that the Grand Metropolitan-Elders IXL swap might be allowed has

concentrated Whitbread's mind wonderfully. The benefits of such a deal would almost certainly rob Whitbread of the right to claim the mantle of Britain's lowest-cost beer producer.

Whitbread is unwilling to spell out details of its reorganization, but has said it is committed to brewing. It can retain 2,000 managed pubs on a close tie, but will have to distance itself slightly from half of the rest of its 4,500-strong estate. The other half will either be leased or sold, the City believes.

Whitbread A shares jumped 12p to 414p on the news. Pre-tax profits of about £300 million this year would put them on a prospective multiple of just over 8. Not expensive; but the shares have had a good run of late, and further progress may have to wait until the group's intentions are clearer.

Laporte

LAPORTE'S announcement of a £144 million rights issue almost went down like a stone yesterday, with the shares immediately falling from 516p to 465p.

That the shares swiftly recovered to 511p as the market digested the one-for-four rights at 425p owes much to Laporte's respectable track record and its encouraging earnings growth targets of over 15 per cent.

No firm acquisition for the rights money has been lined up yet, though it should not be long before Laporte tells the



Funding growth: Ken Minton of Laporte

world exactly where it wishes to spend.

The group ended its December year with borrowings of £75 million, which have since risen to £131.5 million. This translates into a gearing figure of 77.6 per cent.

The immediate technical impact of the rights will be to clear out all borrowings, and leave Laporte with net cash balances of £12 million.

However, Mr Ken Minton, chief executive, says the impact of the issue should be seen as improving the group's borrowing capacity — and that, until deals are found, the money will be placed on deposit.

Preferred areas of expansion will probably turn out to be Continental Europe, North America and South-east Asia. The group's compound eps

growth rate since 1983 has been 23.4 per cent, much in line with that of dividend growth, and there is no suggestion that growth will be checked.

So far, 1990 has started off in strong fashion and all Laporte's five divisions have substantial capital investment programmes in mind to further strengthen their hand.

The major shareholder, Solway & Cie, with a 25 per cent holding, is content to follow its rights, and analysts' forecasts for 1990's pre-tax profits are £126 million, compared with £100.3 million in 1989.

The prospective price earnings ratio of 9.7 remains undemanding for a group with money in its pocket and which is going places.

Bank of Ireland

THERE is a touch of irony attached to the figures from the Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland. Four years ago the Emerald Isle appeared to offer little prospect to the bank's management, which decided to embark on rapid diversification in Britain and the US. Today, burgeoning profits in Ireland are propping up a decidedly shaky performance overseas.

The bank lifted pre-tax profits 4 per cent in the year to end-March to Ir£134 million (£131 million), but only on the strength of a fall in exceptional charges.

The damage was principally

done by a 64 per cent decline in Britain to Ir£10 million. The bank suffered from falling margins on its £1.6 billion mortgage book, which it originally bought from Bank of America. Margins also sank at British Credit Trust, the consumer finance operation.

First New Hampshire, the US bank that Bank of Ireland bought in 1988, was knocked for six. An Ir£25 million debt provision sent it into a Ir£600,000 loss, compared with Ir£1.4 million profit for just one month of consolidation in 1988-89.

The Bank is relaxed about the plight of its two offshoots. It feels Britain will pick up, while First New Hampshire's position is rather more secure than some of its New England neighbours. In the meantime they cut costs and wait, while the home market supplies the growth.

Profits in the Irish retail bank rose 54 per cent to Ir£110 million, helped by a 150 per cent rise at Lifetime Assurance to Ir£17.4 million.

The bank was also helped by a reduction in Ireland's corporation tax rate, which allowed earnings to rise 14 per cent to Ir£28.2p. The final dividend of Ir£7p makes Ir£11p for the year, up 17 per cent.

Nevertheless, the market disliked the figures and the shares fell 5p to 234p, to put them on a p/e of 8. Even if investors insist on buying Irish bank shares, rather than their cheaper Scottish and English equivalents, Allied Irish Banks still looks better value after its recent weakness.

TT sweetens bid for Crystalate with cash

TT, the acquisitive mini-conglomerate, has offered the option of part-cash terms as a sweetener to its £32 million bid for Crystalate, and declared it final. It has also brought forward the closing date to 1 June.

The news prompted Vishay Intertechnology, Crystalate's US supplier, to repeat its earlier announcement that it was considering a counter-bid. It added that it was seeking trading information from Crystalate and would take a decision by May 25. However, Mr John Newman, a director of TT, said the company was working on the assumption that Vishay would not intervene as its \$180 million borrowings were well in excess of shareholders' funds of \$58 million.

Hawker buys US group

HAWKER Siddeley Group has bought Eaton Technologies, a privately owned American electric motor company, for \$38 million. Eaton is based in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, has plants in South Dakota, Indiana and Tennessee and employs 525 people. It is the first large purchase made by Hawker's Electric Motors Division.

Profit slips at E Produce

EASTERN Produce (Holdings), whose interests include tea and coffee plantations, saw pre-tax profits slip from £8.14 million to £7.47 million in the year to end-December, on turnover of £158.2 million (£163.7 million). Eps are reduced to 22.9p (25.8p). The final dividend is improved to 9.5p (8.5p), making a total of 12p (11p).

Dan-Air assurances

DAN-AIR, at the centre of takeover speculation, sought to assure potential holidaymakers, the travel trade and users of the airline's scheduled services that it was business as usual after it began talks about its future with "interested parties."

British-owned Air Europe, the German airline Luftansa, and American Airlines are among firms believed to be interested in buying Dan-Air. A Dan-Air spokesman said: "The current talks will in no way jeopardize any contractual arrangements we have with our customers. We are a controlled company, in other words, we have various family trusts and directors who together hold a majority shareholding in excess of 60 per cent, so we are in control of our destiny."

Oliver rights issue flops

MORE than two-thirds of Oliver Resources' rights issue has been left with the underwriters. Oliver, which yesterday awarded a joint licence with Rula Oil and Gaelic Resources covering three blocks in the Celtic Sea, says that only 28.5 per cent was taken up. Oliver has a 40 per cent interest in blocks that are to be operated by Rula Oil.

Tugboat firm sails ahead

OCEAN Wilsons (Holdings), the Brazilian tugboat operator and UK investment holding company, made pre-tax profits of £13.7 million in the year to December, after £8.02 million. Higher profits from Brazilian operations were aided by the exchange rate. A final dividend of 2.25p (2p) makes 2.75p (2.5p). Earnings were 18.66p (10.22p).

UK firms for Osaka

FIVE foreign securities firms — three of them British — are to be allowed on to the Osaka Stock Exchange in Japan soon and three others will be given limited trading rights. Goldman Sachs (Japan) of the US, Société Générale Securities of France and County NatWest Securities Japan, Jardine Fleming Securities and Barclays de Zoete Wedd will be officially approved on May 29, bringing to 13 the number of foreign brokers on the Osaka exchange — Japan's second largest after Tokyo.

Credit Lyonnais Securities of France, JP Morgan Securities Asia of the US and SBCI Securities Asia, a Swiss firm, will be named special participants, allowed to deal in options.

The Guinness Trial

Inspector 'did not know' of Saunders' arrest

MR DAVID Donaldson, QC, one of the Department of Trade inspectors investigating the £2.7 billion takeover of Distillers by Guinness, denied yesterday that he ordered Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chief executive and chairman of Guinness, back from Switzerland to be arrested.

Southwark Crown Court heard that Mr Saunders was arrested on the evening of May 6, 1987, hours after appearing before the DTI inspectors.

Mr Donaldson admitted that because of the Mr Saunders' ill health, earlier interviews had been cut short. He said Mr Saunders' lawyers wanted to give the inspectors a medical report on April 30. But he added: "We considered that, and thought the best thing to do was to order his appearance on May 6 to consider what the position was."

Mr Donaldson agreed there was a further report from doctors on May 3, and Mr Saunders' lawyers told him their client was most anxious to help the inquiry despite medical advice. Mr Saunders attended the interview on May 6, but Mr Donaldson did not know until the next morning that the former Guinness chief had been arrested.

Mr Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mr Saunders, asked: "What I am anxious to know from you is had there been any communication between you and the police?" Mr Donaldson replied: "No." But he added that the Serious Fraud Office had been able to get transcripts of interviews.

"Did you know he was going to be arrested that evening?" asked Mr Ferguson.

Mr Donaldson replied: "I did not know he was going to be arrested. It was something I suspected might happen." Mr Ferguson asked: "You did not order him to appear before you on May 6 knowing he was going to be arrested after his appearance?" Mr Donaldson replied: "No, I did not." He added that the next appointment for an interview was for the morning of May 7, and he said he had expected to see Mr Saunders then.

Mr John Chadwick, QC, prosecuting, asked: "Was there any question of you

working with the police." Mr Donaldson replied: "Certainly not."

Earlier in the day, Mr Donaldson said Mr Anthony Parnes, a stockbroker, feared threats of retaliation if he discussed "other people's business."

Mr Donaldson said Mr Parnes became nervous and sensitive when quizzed about Mr Ephraim Margulies, the businessman, or the payment of £1.9 million to Cifco, an offshore company, after the successful bid.

He told the court that it took an "off the record discussion" to get to the bottom of the mystery.

Mr Margulies, the then chairman of SW Bensford, is said to have received a payment of nearly £3 million as a success fee and to cover losses after investing in Guinness shares to support the share price during the battle for Distillers in 1986.

Mr Donaldson said the subject of retaliation first arose when he asked Mr Parnes where he obtained the newspaper to invoice Guinness for his own fee of £3.35 million.

At first the broker replied "from an agent," but when pressed admitted it was from Mr Margulies' son Ari.

Mr Donaldson said Mr Parnes was sensitive about the questions and the threats were a serious matter to him. But he added that when asked what retaliation he referred to, Mr Parnes replied: "Just discussing other people's affairs." And he said Mr Parnes refused to say whether the threats were physical or who made them.

Asked how it was agreed to continue off the record, Mr Donaldson said: "We were concerned Mr Parnes may be subjected to threats and intimidation and that was a very serious matter. And so we would have to see whether something could be done very quickly, perhaps involving the police."

Mr Saunders, aged 54, Mr Gerald Ronson, aged 50, Mr Parnes, aged 44, and Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74, the financier, variously deny 24 charges including theft, false accounting, and breaches of the Companies Act.

The trial continues.

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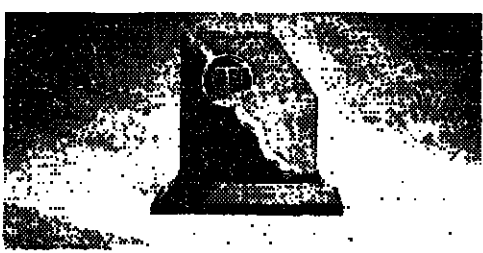
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Insurer hit by £79m quarterly loss and fall in world stock markets

Gales damage Royal reserves

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

ROYAL Insurance saw first-quarter pre-tax losses of £79 million and the effect on investments of a fall in world stock markets cut capital and reserves to the level of a year ago, at £2.2 billion.

The losses (against first-quarter 1989 profits of £45 million) contributed to the balance sheet excess solvency margin — which the group aims to keep between 40 per cent and 60 per cent — dropping from 56 per cent at the end of 1989 to 44 per cent at the end of March.

Royal says that this poses

no financial problem, not least because goodwill write-offs from investment in its Italian subsidiary reduced the formal excess solvency margin by 2 points and goodwill write-offs on continuing businesses over recent years cut the formal margin by 10 points.

The European Community minimum excess solvency margin for insurance companies is about 16 per cent.

The results, reflecting Royal's prominent share of British household insurance in a quarter dominated by the January and February gales,

were marginally better than City forecasts, but they lifted Royal's shares by 31p to 464p, well ahead of a sector favoured by the day's rise in stock market indices.

Royal has had about 390,000 claims, amounting to almost £240 million, before reinsurance, on the storms. Its catastrophe reinsurance restricted losses to £35 million per event, more than Commercial Union, but much lower than Sun Alliance. This reduced losses from storms in Britain to £70 million.

Other claims took UK weather

losses in the first quarter to £94 million, against £11 million a year ago. Worldwide weather losses amounted to £120 million net, against £23 million in first-quarter 1989.

Mr Peter Duerden, managing director of Royal UK, said he was not unduly worried about the storm losses, which were the risk insurance companies bore, but was concerned that a new weather pattern might be emerging.

Royal believes that it may have gained some marketing benefit from the storms, particularly from the inundation at Towyn, North Wales, where its claims staff earned praise by actively seeking policyholders driven from their homes and providing immediate financial help and personal assistance.

Quarterly losses from estate agencies — at a seasonal high — were £8 million, against £9 million a year ago. US losses grew from £14 million to £20 million, but later quarters should benefit from rationalization already undertaken. The US business is not expected to make satisfactory profits until 1992.

COMMENT

Major's music catches market-makers on hop

Chancellors of the Exchequer are meant to be good with figures, but John Major seems able to make them sing. In an interview with the *Wall Street Journal*, Mr Major first set the conditions for Britain's entry into the Exchange Rate Mechanism of the European Monetary System, and then went on to demonstrate that they could be close to being met.

He said, according to the *WSJ*, that "broadly comparative measures" of inflation between Britain and the rest of the EC would determine the timing of entry. Those who studied the events of last Friday, when "inflation rose to 9.4 per cent" might conclude that broad comparability between British inflation and that of other EC countries is still a long way away. But using the Major arithmetical tables, the gap between us and them narrows. Britain is showing an inflation of 6.75 per cent and the European average is 5.25 per cent. Still a gap to be bridged, but no longer an impossible gulf.

It was this that started the run in London yesterday morning, just surely as his predecessor Nigel Lawson started a rout in the opposite direction early in 1988 when the *WSJ* suggested that he was predicting a round of interest rate rises (he was, as it happened, taken out of context, and the worldwide fall in markets provoked by his comments was soon reversed). Mr Major's remarks were not particularly new, not particularly startling or revolutionary. But for some reason they struck a chord with fund managers who did know they wanted to get into the market, but did not quite know when.

The result was that when the institutional buyers appeared, there was little stock for them to buy. A market trying to exist on the kind of meagre volumes seen in London this year has no need of long books, especially when inventory has to be carried against a background of base rates of 15 per cent. But books kept in equilibrium for a drifting market become short as soon as the bulls start to run, and the market-makers were well and truly caught.

The general air of "let's get in" among institutional investors was furthered by the gilt market, where international forces were at work. The investment strike which some feared would be called by the Japanese has not happened in London, although the situation is not the same elsewhere. Japanese who will bid pictures up to \$75 million think nothing of pushing into gilts, when the buttress of ERM membership appears to be on sterling's horizon and when interest rates are still high enough to take care of any residual exchange rate risks.

The Tokyo houses' gilt holdings have done well in yen terms and significant profits have been taken this year. Reinvestment is now the name of the game.

It would be unwise, however, to become too excited by the 63.3 rise in the FT-SE index, for it says more about the quality of London markets than the quality of London equities. The market is thin, with the average size of alpha quotes on the Topic screen half the levels of early 1989. The spreads are wider. The securities industry is over-broke but under-capitalized. Market-makers, of which there are far more than required with the result that the market is fragmented, are reluctant to do business with each other for fear of being wrong-footed.

Based on fundamental criteria, with the property market in a state of near collapse and company earnings under heavy pressure, the average price/earnings ratio of about 10 is not exciting. The reality of ERM entry is that it is much further in the distance than the average fund managers' next review, and close examination of Major's reported remarks suggests that he merely repeated what he said before. A market being driven by an excess of cash rather than a genuine assessment of the attraction of equities is a dangerous world in which to play.

Saatchi on defensive

Damage limitation began in earnest yesterday at Saatchi & Saatchi, the troubled advertising giant which immediately lost 10 per cent of its market capitalization once news of the walkout of four directors and four other employees from its London advertising agency hit the market.

Even if the departed directors fail to snatch any of Saatchi's clients for their rival venture — Saatchi said it had received assurances from all its affected accounts — the latest bit of bad news is widely seen as just more evidence of the continuing crumbling of an empire, attracting unwanted attention to the group's difficulties.

Morale at the Charlotte Street agency is said to be low; it must be asked whether the resignations will prompt an exodus of other, more key, employees. More importantly, it has led some City analysts to move beyond merely questioning whether Saatchi, with £250 million net debt, will contemplate selling off one of its core advertising networks to believing it is only a matter of time before the group is forced into it by anxious creditors.

David Brewerton

Hartstone back in black by £3m

By Melinda Wittstock

HARTSTONE, Britain's largest leather goods and hosiery distributor, has reported a strong recovery in profitability for the year to end-March.

Pre-tax profits at the company, which recently changed its name from Glamor Group as part of a reorganization carried out by Mr Stephen Barker, the former chief executive of Albert Fisher, reached £3.22 million, against a pre-tax loss of £164,000 the previous year.

Hartstone, which spent £20 million on acquisitions during the year, increased turnover by 69.5 per cent to £25.6 million. Mr Barker pegged the underlying organic growth at 17 per cent and said operating margins had risen by 25 per cent from a *pro forma* 9.3 per cent to 11.6 per cent.

The company reported earnings per share of 12p, against a loss per share of 1.3p. The dividend is up 54 per cent from 1.3p to 2p.

Net tangible assets stand at £14.9 million, against £3.7 million last time. Since Mr Barker's appointment as executive chairman last year, Hartstone, which bought Bear Brand hosiery last week, has lifted its share of the British hosiery market to 20 per cent and of the leather goods market to 15 per cent.

Mr Barker said Hartstone would save £1 million on an annualized basis as a result of rationalization, the benefits of combined purchasing power and cross-selling.

Hartstone, he added, wants to expand into West Germany, The Netherlands or Belgium and plans to take advantage of demand for nylons in Eastern Europe. It exports to the Soviet Union, Romania and Yugoslavia.



Window of opportunity: Stephen Barker is looking for acquisitions overseas

Reduction in Shell group's income

By Colin Campbell

ROYAL Dutch/Shell group saw first-quarter 1990 net income fall from £1.28 billion to £816 million, or, on a replacement cost basis, from £1.11 billion to £826 million.

Shell says that the fall would be only 4 per cent if real estate gains totalling £344 million were stripped out of the first-quarter figures for 1989.

The group says that exploration and production earnings rose substantially, and that average margins improved within manufacturing, marine and marketing operations.

Chemical earnings, though substantially lower than in first-quarter 1989, have "improved slightly" from the previous quarter.

Shell says that coal and metals are expected to operate profitably in 1990, although some decline in metals earnings may be expected.

Earnings by industry segment show a sharp fall in manufacturing, marine and marketing in the US, where a previous quarterly profit of £57 million became a £14 million quarterly loss. The 1989 quarter benefited from £40 million from an insurance claim, while 1990 first-quarter results were hit by higher material costs, and plant damage.

Total long-term and short-term debt was 9 per cent higher at £5.9 billion.

Shell shares rose 11p to 466p. Analysts considered the trend since the December quarter better than comparison between first-quarter 1990 and first-quarter 1989 suggests.

Hungary pledges fast economic action

From Wolfgang Münch, Budapest

HUNGARY'S trade minister-designate, Mr Peter Akos Bod, has promised bold measures to open up the Hungarian economy to foreign investors as soon as possible.

At the heart of his campaign, he said, will be large-scale privatization and the encouragement of small and medium-sized businesses.

Speaking at a conference on economic reform in Eastern Europe, organized by the Council of Europe, which Hungary hopes to join later

this year, he said: "For us, it is not only a fashion, as it was throughout the world in recent years. For us, this is a must, if we are to change society."

He gave no indication which state-owned firms would be privatized first, or when.

Mr Bod was nominated trade minister-designate on Wednesday, but like the rest of the government has not yet been sworn in.

Mr Bod, who is being regarded as a free-market radical in Hungary, indicated that the country will have to undergo short-term economic hardship if it is to succeed in turning the planned economy into a genuine free market.

Dr Tylt Necker, the president of the German employers' federation, was speaking at the same conference.

He gave warning that "a strong economy and a high standard of living can only develop on the basis of an efficient transport and telecommunication system."

However, Western nations are constrained in their attempts to help modernize telecommunications in the Eastern bloc, since such help would fall foul under current CoCom regulations, governing high-security exports into Eastern bloc countries.

Although US President George Bush has recently pledged to support a relaxation of the rules with regard to computers, telecommunications are likely to remain on the list of forbidden exports.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Siren tale sticks at KB

THE City has always loved a nickname and as the corporate financiers at Kleinwort Benson cracked open the champagne yesterday, in celebration of its appointment as an adviser to the Danish Ministry of Finance, the siren tale of the KB team, who together with David Clements, is leading the KB team, braced itself for a new one. KB is helping with the privatization of the ministry's state life insurance company — Statens aldersforsikring.

Throughout the highly-competitive pitch for the business, the Danish firm was known within KB by the codename "Mermaid" and an inside informant explains that while this had something to do with Copenhagen, it also reflected the role played by Watts — one of only three female directors at KB. Pointing out that she has shoulder-length red hair rather than flowing blonde locks, Watts nevertheless now seems resigned to the fact that she will, evermore, be known as the mermaid. "This week I've been called everything from a nymphette to a witch, so it could be worse," she says philosophically. "But I suppose it depends whether you view mermaids as ladies who entice people onto the rocks..."

Slow reaction

LIKE the proverbial fly in the ointment, Brent Chemicals, something of a minnow in terms of chemical companies — with a market capitalization

of £79 million — caused no end of irritation to Laporte, the second biggest chemicals concern in Britain, after ICI, and valued at more than £700 million. For when Laporte wanted to unveil its £144 million rights issue yesterday, its advisers dutifully contacted the 20 or so chemical analysts who roam the Square Mile and summoned them to a meeting. But not one was available. They were all having much more fun down beside the Thames, at the plush Oakley Court Hotel in Windsor — the setting for the Hammer House of Horror films — as guests of Brent. And despite stern instructions being relayed via a number of mobile telephones, few analysts could be persuaded to make an early return to London.

PROVING that there really is no end to the City Diary's increasingly painful series of euphemisms, another reader,



"Twenty per cent of our labour force are not working for us."

Tony Oakeshott, a retired executive of that right wing pressure group Aims of Industry, recalls the time a colleague considered buying a second rate racehorse, to be called Nationalization — "in the hope that it would always come last." "Those were the days before the word privatization was invented," writes Oakeshott. "Imagine a horse with a name like that..."

Going to the dogs

IN A mood for celebration, after seeing off Sir Ron Brierley's attempt to demerge Rolls-Royce motors from Vickers, Terry Collis, the company's PR director, will be taking his entire staff to the dogs tonight, when he sponsors the Vickers Public Affairs Department Victory Stakes. But the greyhound racing will not be entirely frivolous. The race, to be staged at Wimbledon, is expected to raise about £5,000 for Central London Samaritans. Collis's favourite charity since he was once chairman. He still puts in more than eight hours a week.

Built to last

STRESSED City executives planning an African safari as a means of temporary escape, should perhaps think again. On a recent trip to Botswana, private client stockbroker Robin Woodhead, chief executive of National Investment Group, was attacked by an elephant which destroyed his Land-Rover and left him lucky to be alive. Woodhead, aged 39, was in the Chobe Game Reserve with two

friends — Temple barrister Hugo Page and headhunter (of people not animals) Julia Williams — when the elephant charged. It rammed the vehicle against a tree before knocking it on its side. "One of the tusk broke off and the other went through the roof, showering us with glass," says a recovering Woodhead. "It was screaming with anger." Woodhead, a fan of Wilbur Smith novels, survived with cuts and bruises and had a three-foot tusk to show for the experience. "I felt rather sorry for the elephant," he adds, which clearly came off worse than the Land-Rover.

Medallion men

WHEN it comes to wild parties, not even the City can upstage Britain's insurance companies. To celebrate 65 years in the business, insurance group Manulife trucked 1,000 salesmen to the Bray film studios near Windsor this week for the party of a lifetime. Part of the set was done up like a Big Top, complete with jugglers, acrobats and a ringmaster to keep things in hand. Wine flowed as the salesmen — many of them former teachers attracted by potential salaries and commission of £100,000 a year or more — got into the spirit of the occasion. "There was enough jewellery in that room to re-sink the Titanic," quipped one observer, commenting on the salesmen present, leaving one to conclude that a high proportion of their new-found wealth must end up in the tills at Ratners.

Carol Leonard



Royal Insurance

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS 1990

- Capital and Reserves £2,216m with net assets per share of 453p.
- The pre-tax result of a loss of £79m (1989: £45m profit) was heavily impacted by worldwide weather losses of £120m (1989: £23m).
- In the UK weather losses were £94m (1989: £11m) with the January and February storms alone producing 380,000 claims of which 80% have already been settled.
- In North America the Canadian result remained satisfactory but the US continued to be affected by adverse market conditions.
- In Life and Related Financial Services the benefits of a more broad geographical spread of business are being seen.



Royal Insurance

A full statement for the first quarter results for 1990 (of which the above is an extract) will be mailed to all shareholders, and is also available from Group Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance Holdings plc, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR. Please send me a copy of Royal Insurance's first quarter statement.

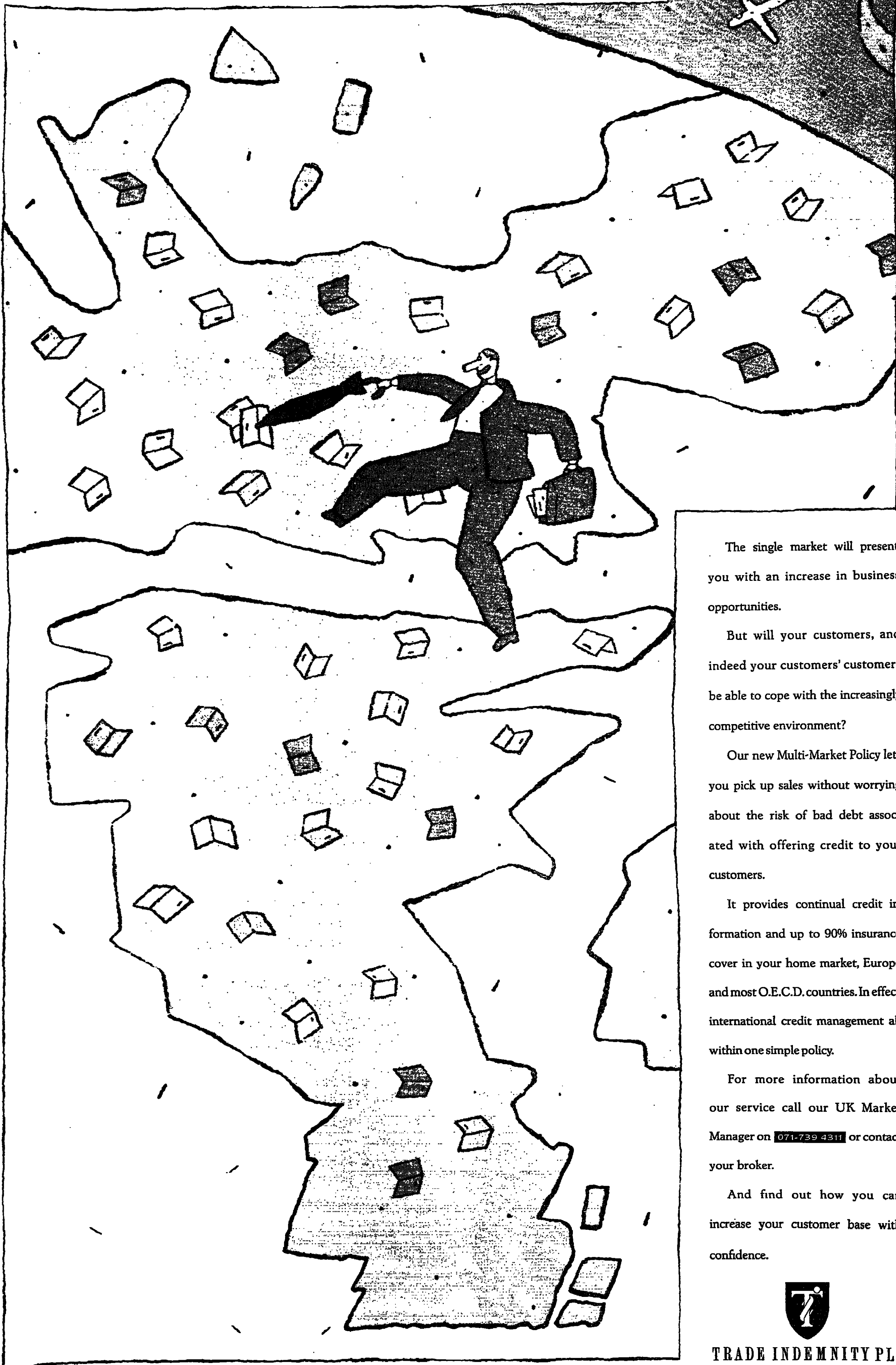
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TRADE INDEMNITY PLC

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CRS's 21% rise in profits indicates revival in co-ops

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

CO-OPERATIVE Retail Services (CRS), the biggest retail operation in the co-operative movement, has pushed up its trading profits by 21 per cent in the year ended January, coming out at £39.3 million, on a turnover up 7.6 per cent at £1.15 billion.

The profits-to-sales ratio rose to 3.4 per cent from 3 per cent the year before.

The CRS sales increase is in line with inflation in its trading sectors — there are extensive non-food as well as grocery interests — so it has retained its market share.

The achievement is another sign that the Co-op as a whole — there are 80 retail societies throughout the United Kingdom — is starting to hold its own in the market place after years of sliding sales.

CRS has traditionally been the organization that acted as an ambulance service for retail societies in trouble. One of its biggest rescues was that of the former London society.

Despite the costs of this role, CRS has attained an average profits growth of 25.8 per cent a year for the past five years.

Reserves have mounted by

more than a fifth a year on average over the same period.

Because of shop closures to achieve more efficiency, sales over the five years have grown by an average of only 4.3 per cent a year.

The CRS annual report said: "In a difficult year for retailers, the 1989 results are considered to be satisfactory and support current retailing strategies."

Increased buying efficiency and the growing use of electronic till systems have made a big contribution to increases in food profits, which were up 39 per cent on sales up by just over 9 per cent, said Mr Neil Pringle, the CRS financial controller.

Non-food sales increased only marginally, but profits did not deteriorate. Although doorstep milk deliveries are under pressure, dairy sales were up 8.5 per cent, against the national trend.

The number of funerals dealt with rose 4 per cent.

Capital expenditure, much of it on new store openings, was £56 million, but CRS nevertheless reduced its gearing to 32 per cent.

Mr Pringle said: "We have

to an extent been bucking some of the trends and in the current year things are still looking quite good. We remain fairly confident."

The pioneering Homeworld outlets — furniture, furnishings and other home items in hypermarket-size out-of-town stores of more than 100,000 sq ft — saw sales rise 4.3 per cent. This was despite the durables sector being one of the worst-affected by pressures on consumer spending. A recent opening, at Catcliffe, near Sheffield, has taken the number of Homeworlds to five.

"Catcliffe... in its first four weeks has started off well, but we will have to see how it settles down," Mr Pringle said.

"The existing four are doing particularly well so the concept appears to be a successful one. There is good growth this year, so far."

With the recent opening of two London area superstores, at Dalston and Chingford, CRS now has more than 60 grocery outlets of 25,000 sq ft or more.

Its capital spending on new stores is expected to stay at least at the current level.

BA still attracted by stake in Air NZ

Auckland
BRITISH Airways says it is still interested in a stake in Air New Zealand if one becomes available.

Mr Nick Tait, BA Australia and New Zealand regional manager, said: "Circumstances change all the time, but we would certainly consider it." He was speaking at the launch of a joint Air New Zealand-BA ticket and marketing scheme.

Speculation persists, despite denials from Qantas Airways and Air New Zealand, that Qantas wants to sell its 19.9 per cent stake in Air New Zealand.

"We are in the private sector and we have shareholders to answer to, but we would consider any business opportunity that comes our way," Mr Tait said. "We would obviously look at it if it came up again, in the same way that we looked at it two years ago."

When Air New Zealand was privatized two years ago BA was seen as a likely partner for the carrier, but was beaten by a consortium led by Brierley Investments Ltd.

Analysts say political considerations may have weighed against BA. Mr Tait said BA would also look at American Airlines' 7.5 per cent stake if its parent AMR Corp decided to sell.

(Reuters)

Guinness trading 'well up'



Mr Anthony Tennant, centre, chairman of Guinness, with Mr Brian Beldock, left, managing director of Guinness Brewing Worldwide, and Mr Anthony Greener, managing director of United Distillers, at Guinness's annual meeting yesterday, at which Mr

Tennant said that this year's trading was well up. Noting that, after just four months, things were at a relatively early stage, he went on: "However, bearing this proviso in mind, I can say that trading so far is well up on last year." Guinness shares improved 20p to 694p.

Three firms give profit warnings

By Our City Staff

Russell (Alexander), the Glasgow coal to quarrying group, was one of three companies to issue profit warnings. It told its annual meeting that the year had had a disappointing start and first-half results would not be as good as for the

corresponding period. The shares fell 5p to 81p.

Sag Furniture, the cabinet furniture maker, also gave warning about first-half profits at its annual meeting, after a slow start to the year, but said it hoped to produce a satisfactory result for the year

as a whole. The shares firmed by 1p to 112p.

Bullers, the fine arts to giftware group, said results for the half year are likely to be below expectations but it does not intend to amend its plans for the rest of the year. The shares rose 1p to 26p.

Dairy Farm to acquire Spanish retail chain

From Lulu Yu
Hong Kong

DAIRY Farm International, the Hong Kong group which owns 25 per cent of Kwik Save supermarkets, is buying Simago, a Spanish retail chain, for US\$126 million.

The acquisition will add to Dairy Farm's portfolio of 711 stores and supermarkets in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia and Britain.

Dairy Farm obtained a listing in London this week with Jardine Matheson Holdings, its associate company. The group, one of the most profitable in the colony, is fostering an international image before Hong Kong is returned to China in 1997.

Mr Owen Price, Dairy Farm's managing director, said Simago would "provide a significant foothold for Dairy Farm in continental Europe, prior to 1992."

Simago, which operates 107 retail outlets in Spain, reported sales of US\$546 million and a net loss before tax and extraordinary items of US\$7.8 million for the year ended December 31.

● Lane Crawford, one of Hong Kong's most prestigious fashion stores, has announced plans to switch its domicile to Bermuda, joining a long queue of companies seeking a safe haven before 1997.

Longer hours help Appleby top £2m

By Philip Pangalos

PRE-TAX profits at Appleby Westward Group, the West Country grocery wholesaler, rose 26 per cent to £2.04 million in the year to end February, after improved margins and a better business mix.

Turnover grew 17 per cent to £56.4 million. Earnings per share climbed 28 per cent to 23.9p and the final dividend is raised to 5.5p (4.5p), making an improved total of 8p (6.5p) for the year.

Mr Roger Harvey, the chairman, said the company benefited from longer opening

hours at retailers, with typical convenience stores opening from 8am to 10pm, often seven days a week. In addition, last summer's fine weather brought more visitors to the West Country.

Mr Harvey said that 50 per cent of many small retailers' turnover is achieved after 5pm.

He said: "All divisions within the group are well placed to increase sales and profit."

"There are plenty of opportunities available to us to increase the number of Spar and VG outlets in the South-west and it has become clear that, unlike other retailers, many of our customers do not appear to have been affected by the current downturn in consumer expenditure."

Mr Harvey added: "Construction of additional warehouse space is under way to enable us to cope with the growing demand, and we have recently upgraded our computer facilities to handle our expansion."

The shares firmed 3p to 183p.



Harvey: opportunities

Downturn hammers carpet firm

By Our City Staff

THE continued downturn affecting the domestic carpet industry took its toll on Tomkinsons, the Worcester-shire carpet manufacturer.

Pre-tax profits slumped by 39.7 per cent to £1.03 million in the six months to March 3, on turnover 9.4 per cent lower at £12.7 million.

Earnings per share fell by 43.8 per cent to 10.9p, but the interim dividend is maintained at 3.5p.

Mr Lowry Maclean, chairman, said the company has significantly increased exports in the period, and maintained its commitment in the contract sector, but the major business continues to be the supply of carpet for residential use in the UK.

He said the housing market is the worst most people can remember and the home improvement market is slow to recover. Mr Maclean added that it now seems certain that many UK-based carpet manufacturers will report lower turnover and margins in 1990. The shares lost 6p to 263p.

Results at Foster slip to £1.26m

By Our City Staff

PRE-TAX profits at John Foster & Son, the worsted and mohair fabric weaver, slumped from £3.34 million to £1.26 million in the year to March 2.

Mr Harold Harvey, managing director, said the results of a heavy investment programme had still to come through. The costs of the marketing and development programmes had been considerable and the benefits slower than expected in coming to fruition. However, the company expected to reap the rewards in due course.

Earnings fell from 21.1p to 7.3p, but the final dividend was maintained at 3.75p, making an unchanged total of 5.5p for the year.

Turnover slipped from £34.8 million to £34.2 million, mainly due to a difficult domestic market where margins have been "quite depressed." Interest costs rose by 34 per cent to £407,000, due mainly to last year's acquisition of John Gladstone. The shares lost 6p to 68p.

Australia's economic gloom hurts banks

From David Tweed, Sydney

SOARING interest rates, an economy teetering on the verge of recession, and a large increase in debt provisions have severely affected the interim results of two of Australia's biggest banks.

Westpac Banking Corporation had its half-year profit cut by 8 per cent to Aus\$354 million (£160 million) after making a provision for bad debts of Aus\$58.7 million — 159 per cent up on the corresponding period.

The bank declared an unchanged dividend of 25 cents a share.

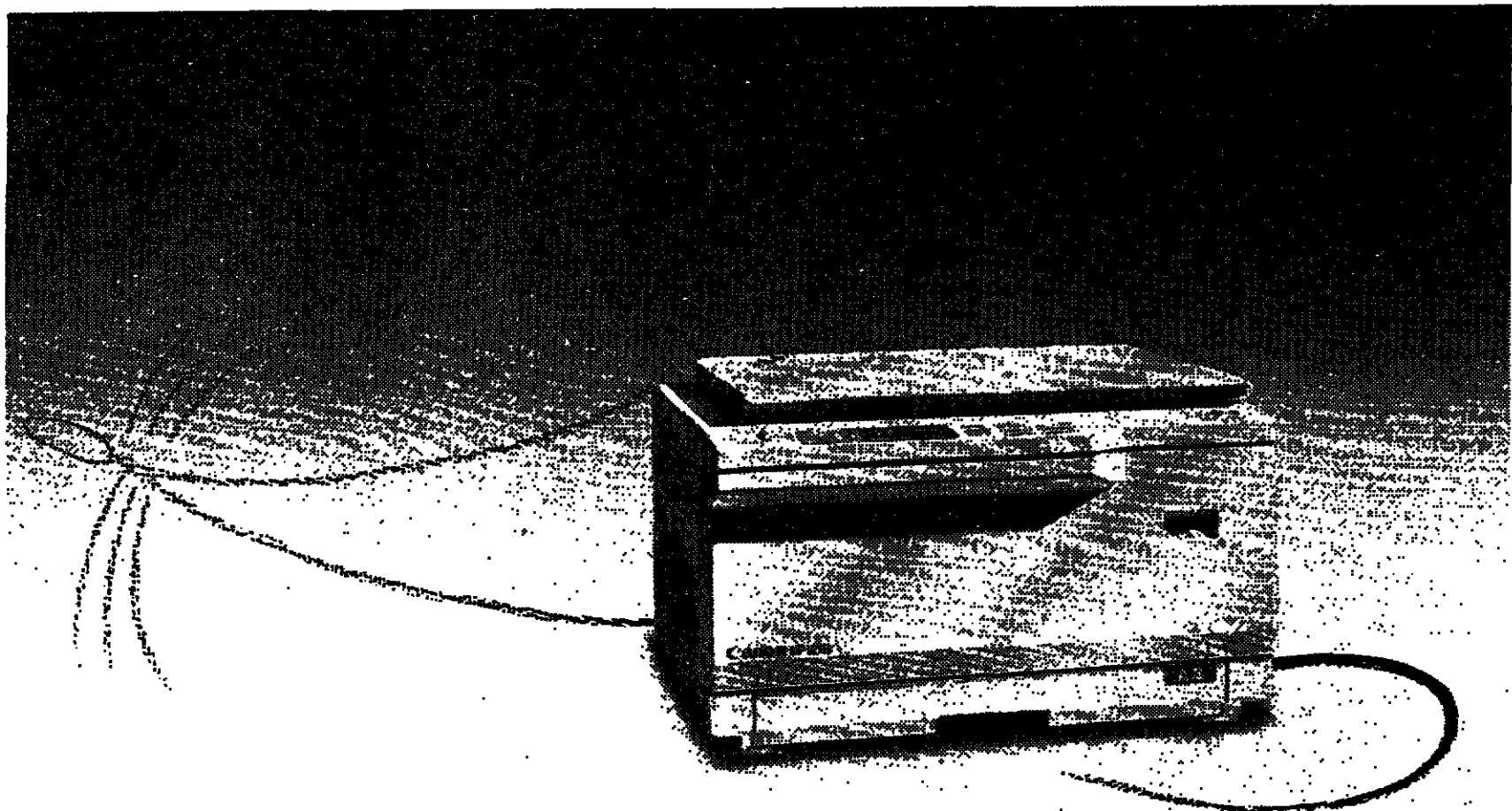
National Australia Bank, the other big bank to report its interim results, lifted profits by 6.1 per cent from Aus\$414 million to Aus\$440 million for

the half-year to March 31, despite a 72 per cent increase from Aus\$144 million to a record Aus\$247 million in bad debts.

The bank has declared a fully franked interim dividend of 26 cents a share (25 cents). In Britain it owns the Yorkshire Bank, for which it paid £976 million in January, Clydesdale Bank in Scotland and Northern Bank in Ireland, which it bought from Midland in 1987.

The purchase of Yorkshire helped dilute earnings a share from 55.1 cents to 47.5 cents. The bank said the effect of buying Yorkshire Bank on the latest half-year is "very small" and the purchase would be cash-positive over the year.

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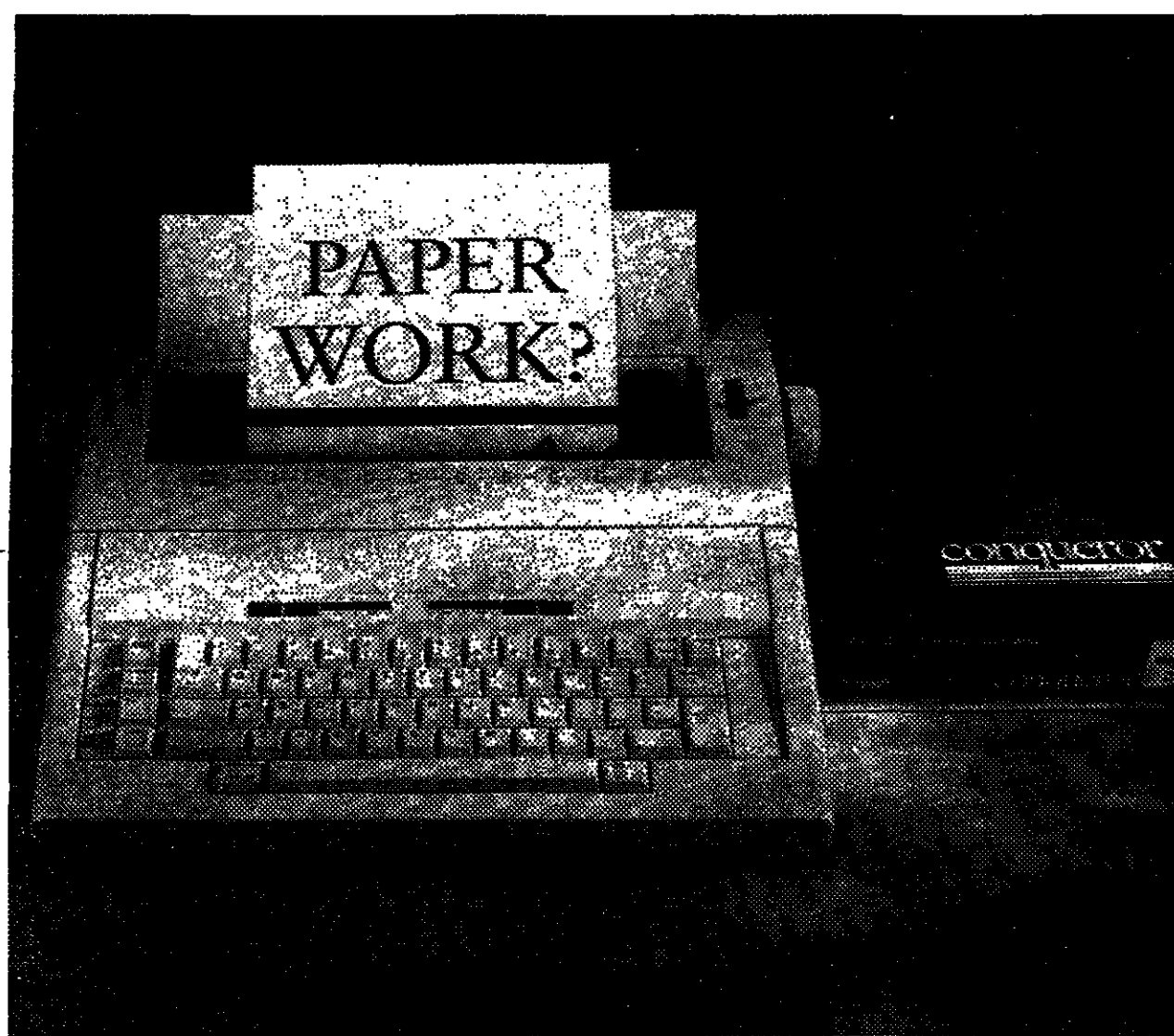
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Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Lloyds (as)	Banks/Discount	
2	Williams Hedges (as)	Industrials S-Z	
3	Gerrard Nat	Banks/Discount	
4	BICC (as)	Electricals	
5	Wolmington & D	Breweries	
6	Meyer Int	Building/Roads	
7	Steeley	Building/Roads	
8	Sauer (JW)	Industrials S-Z	
9	Davy	Industrials A-D	
10	AB Food (as)	Food	
11	Island Frozen	Food	
12	Betula	Industrials A-D	
13	Smith WH 'A' (as)	Drugs/Stores	
14	Higgs & Hill	Building/Roads	
15	Stra Water	Building/Roads	
16	McAlpine (Alfred)	Building/Roads	
17	Robinson 'B' (as)	Tobaccos	
18	Johnson Cleaners	Industrials E-K	
19	Booker	Food	
20	Pilkington (as)	Industrials L-R	
21	Br Aerospace (as)	Motors/Aircraft	
22	Fisher (A)	Food	
23	BM Gp	Industrials A-D	
24	Calor Gp	Oil/Gas	
25	Gr Portland	Property	
26	Rothschild (J) Ltd	Banks/Discount	
27	BPS Ind (as)	Building/Roads	
28	Land Sec (as)	Property	
29	Harrogate	Food	
30	Anglo-Can	Drugs/Stores	
31	TIP Europe	Transport	
32	Greenwood Sec	Industrials E-K	
33	Br Land (as)	Property	
34	Church	Drugs/Stores	
35	Yorkshire Chem	Chemicals/Plas	
36	Walker, Greenbank	Industrials S-Z	
37	Norcross	Industrials L-R	
38	Tesco (as)	Food	
39	Lip	Transport	
40	Hilldown (as)	Food	
41	British Gas (as)	Oil/Gas	
42	Cosman	Building/Roads	
43	Granada (as)	Industrials E-K	
44	Greenall Whit	Breweries	
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Daily Total			

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

There were no valid claims for yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize. The £2,000 will be added to today's prize money.

BRITISH FUNDS				
1990	High	Low	Stock	Price

SHORTS (Under Five Years)				
1990	High	Low	Stock	Price

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS				
1990	High	Low	Stock	Price

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS				
1990	High	Low	Stock	Price

UNDATED				
1990	High	Low	Stock	Price

INDEX-LINKED				
1990	High	Low	Stock	Price

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP				
1990	High	Low	Stock	Price

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities soar

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began May 14. Dealings end May 25. Contango day May 29. Settlement day June 4.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES: PAGE 33)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

BREWERIES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

BUILDING, ROADS

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

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1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

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1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

Portfolio

PLATINUM

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DAILY DIVIDEND
£4,000

Claims required for +67 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

PROPERTY

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

SHOES, LEATHER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

TEXTILES

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

TOBACCO

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

TRANSPORT

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

WATER

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E

© Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Interest payment passed d Price at suspension g Dividend and will exclude a social payment f Pre-merger figures Forecast earnings e Ex other f Ex rights a Ex scrip or share split i Tax-free ... No significant data.

سكنا من الأصل

Do Offer Chng Yd			Do Offer Chng Yd			Do Offer Chng Yd				
Export Income	47.79	-0.40	10.45	TRUST FUND MANAGEMENT LTD			SUN ALLIANCE			
Do Acc	87.54	0.18	-0.59	43.3	St. Anthony's, London EC2A 9TJ UK			Sun Alliance, London, Sussex Trk		
Do Hld	183.83	20.58	-0.41	6.06	UK Sp Soc Inc			Sun Alliance		
Income	23.01	24.11	+1.47	0.02	UK Sp Soc Inc			Sun Alliance		
Do Acc	23.01	24.11	+1.47	0.02	UK Sp Soc Inc			Sun Alliance		
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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

THIRD MARKET

COMMODITIES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol		Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
FT-SE 100						Three month ECU					
Jan 90	2357.0	2330.0		2310.0	2154	Jun 90	95.55	95.55		95.55	Previous open interest 37.5
Jan 90	2361.0	2330.0		2310.0	2371.0	Sep 90	95.49	95.49		95.49	95.49 29.5
Three Month Sterling						US Treasury Bond					
Jan 90	65.11	65.07		65.07	174083	Jun 90	92.01	92.01		92.17	Previous open interest 15002
Jan 90	65.11	65.07		65.09	65.45	72659	Long Gilt	91.23		91.23	Previous open interest 35594
Three Month Eurodollar						Japanese Govt Bond					
Jan 90	91.59	91.53		91.58	91.63	145175	Jun 90	85.67		85.67	Previous open interest 95.5
Jan 90	91.59	91.53		91.58	91.64	25444	German Govt Bond				
Three Month Euro DM						Previous open interest 71522					
Jan 90	91.70	91.72		91.65	91.70	43838	Jun 90	83.12	83.60		83.12
Jan 90	91.70	91.72		91.65	91.77	10862	Sep 90	83.53	83.76		83.53

COMMODITIES

LONDON FOX					LONDON METAL EXCHANGE				
COCOA					Official prices/volume previous day				
Jan 91/91	911	915	973	915	Cash 3 month Vol Tonn				
Sep 84/84	929	929	1000	1002	Copper Gde A	1610.0-1614.0	1510.0-1512.0	494225	
Sep 85/85	958	958	1000	1002	Lead	5025.0-5050.0	495.0-495.0	593250	Steady
Jan Futures	964	964	1000	1002	Alumina Spk Hr	1770.0-1777.0	1710.0-1712.0	148425	Steady
0.00-0.50	964	964	1000	1002	Zinc	6475-6480	6900-6920	7900	Quoties
0.50-1.00	964	964	1000	1002	Aluminium Hk	1525.0-1514.0	1548.0-1549.0	254475	Steady
1.00-1.50	964	964	1000	1002	Nickel	8525-8560	8525-8550	14208	Steady
1.50-2.00	964	964	1000	1002	(* Cents per Troy oz. * \$ per tonne)				
2.00-2.50	964	964	1000	1002	MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION				
2.50-3.00	964	964	1000	1002	Aug/febest prices at representative markets on May 17				
3.00-3.50	964	964	1000	1002	LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				
3.50-4.00	964	964	1000	1002	Wheat Close				
4.00-4.50	964	964	1000	1002	Min	Open	Close		
4.50-5.00	964	964	1000	1002	Jun	125.8	128.8		
5.00-5.50	964	964	1000	1002	Aug	126.8	126.8		
5.50-6.00	964	964	1000	1002	Oct	126.8	126.8		
6.00-6.50	964	964	1000	1002	Nov	126.8	126.8		
6.50-7.00	964	964	1000	1002	Dec	126.8	126.8		
7.00-7.50	964	964	1000	1002	Live Cattle Contract	Open	Close		
7.50-8.00	964	964	1000	1002	Jun	126.8	126.8		
8.00-8.50	964	964	1000	1002	Aug	126.8	126.8		
8.50-9.00	964	964	1000	1002	Oct	126.8	126.8		
9.00-9.50	964	964	1000	1002	Nov	126.8	126.8		
9.50-10.00	964	964	1000	1002	Dec	1			

هكذا من الأصل

The boom goes multi-billion

Spending on corporate travel has soared in the past decade. Britain's business travel and entertainment bill is likely to exceed £22 billion this year — £4 billion up on 1985 — and is predicted to climb even higher by 1992, when European Community harmonization has its full impact on UK industry.

British companies spend more on corporate travel and entertainment (T & E) than on advertising, rates and corporation tax put together, according to a report published by American Express this year. About 15 per cent now spend more than £2 billion a year on travel, and most companies expect their outlay to rise at a faster rate than turnover during the next two years.

The UK car rental market alone is worth £402 million, according to figures released by Avis, the car-hire company.

Corporate America also spends huge sums every year on business travel and entertainment. Expenditure is predicted to top \$115 billion (about £68.4 billion) this year and to double by the turn of the century. A recent survey by an American company, Runzheimer International, of Illinois, found that the cost of business travel in the US virtually doubled during the 1980s. The average cost of an overnight trip rose from \$460 in 1980 to \$892 today, almost double the inflation rate.

Fears among international airlines and hotels that the rapid growth in traffic in recent years would be hit by the credit squeeze have proved unfounded. Many agents complain that securing front-end airline seats has become increasingly difficult on many routes, despite successive increases in capacity.

Business travel is now a fact of life for most professionals. Few manufacturers rely solely on domestic markets, and it is now common for multinationals to have marketing sections, research laboratories and production lines sited in different parts of the globe. Push-button technology may have made it simple to contact colleagues and trading partners in other parts of the world in seconds, but deals are rarely struck without person-to-person contact. Business travel is now reckoned to account for at least a third of all travel and tourism expenditure world-wide.

What is striking about British companies' soaring travel bill, however, is not so much the sector's growth as the fact that few companies have yet grasped the nettle when it comes to travel management. Travel industry insiders privately say many companies could slice up to a third off

British companies spend £22 billion a year on travel and entertainment and the amount will grow, Marion Cotter writes

yearly T & E bills by adopting a more professional approach.

Researchers interviewing 1,600 companies in the US found one manufacturer with nearly \$7 million, or 10 per cent of its annual T & E budget, tied up in cash advances. Another company was making staff travel arrangements through 15 different agencies, and employees at a large insurance group were using 22 different payment methods to fund T & E expenses. One leading computer hardware company admitted that



Alan Spence: People do in a day what used to be a long trip

nearly a third of its cash advances was at least two months overdue.

Such lax control is echoed in Britain, where Amex estimates that only 57 per cent of companies have a written T & E policy, and 3 per cent have none. Even more remarkable is the fact that travel policy thrashed out in the boardroom often fails to filter down to grass-roots level. Though 68 per cent of companies have travel arrangements in the hands of secretaries and PAs, Amex found that only 5 per cent of those staff actually see a copy of corporate-spending guidelines.

Business travel management is slowly gaining credibility, however, among businesses that realize tighter controls can yield great savings. Four out of 10 bigger UK companies now employ a travel manager and nine out of 10 employ an official travel agent.

Another signal that UK companies are tightening the rein on runaway travel costs is the rapid spread in corporate credit and charge cards.

Benefits to issuing companies include 30 days or more interest-free credit and itemized monthly statements. Thomas Cook, which launched a corporate-card scheme last month, estimates that British companies are tying up £2 million a day in unnecessary cash advances.

Affiliated to Mastercard, the Thomas Cook card can be used at seven million outlets world-wide, including 300,000 in the UK. Other features of the scheme include 150,000 world-wide cash withdrawal points, automatic travel accident insurance of up to £100,000, compensation for flight delays and lost luggage, and 24-hour emergency and medical assistance.

Business travel patterns are now changing as much as spending habits. Pressure to speed the deal at speed has forced many executives to make shorter but more frequent trips abroad. Flitting across the Atlantic and back for a single meeting is no longer uncommon among senior executives — a need that British Airways has met by launching day returns to New York on Concorde.

Supersonic high-flyers can make free use of the airline's conference suite at Kennedy Airport during their three-hour stopover.

Alan Spence, chairman of the Guild of Business Travel Agents, says: "People now do in a day what they would previously allow half the week for. No one bats an eyelid at flying to Hong Kong for just two days. The good thing is that airline punctuality has improved."

A new breed of international airline is emerging as national carriers interlock, snags to increase their global muscle, thus fending off the competitive blast of the American mega-carriers.

Air fares in Europe could well fall as hub-and-spoke networks grow and liberalization loosens the commercial aviation rule book — although the planned scrapping of duty-free by Brussels Eurocrats is sure to be a bigger headline-grabber.

Eastern Europe, now predicted to become the world's next major economic growth area, has already become a magnet for western business travellers. Some travel agents say that corporate traffic to the Soviet Union has more than doubled in the past 12 months, and they expect the upsurge to continue at least until the end of this year.

Leading hotel groups are already jostling for sites to build in the capitals of eastern Europe to meet accelerating demand for room. *Forrestal*, it seems, could soon be pulling executive travellers en masse.



Woman at work: one in five business travellers in Britain are women, but the deal they receive frequently makes them feel second-class

Female high-flyers are no longer a rare breed. They comprise a fifth of Britain's business travel market and will account for about half the world's corporate travellers by the year 2000. In the United States, they already do. Yet many still get a raw deal from airlines and hotels. A snub from the *maître d'hôtel*, the waiter who seats them behind the potted plants, the porter who thinks unchaperoned women must be of dubious virtue, and the airline steward who treats them like off-duty stewardesses can make business trips an ordeal for lone women travellers (Marion Cotter writes).

Many scuttle back to their room rather than face the put-downs or leering male guests. Badly trained staff are often to blame for the problems, but many hotels still overlook basic amenities for female guests' needs.

Scotia dismisses suggestions that sexism is rampant in the travel industry, believing some women want to be treated like a man and a woman — equal but special too. That is not how many seasoned female high-flyers see it.

Maureen Fitzgerald, a business development manager for Unisys's Euro-African division, travels widely. "Go to many hotels," she says, "and it is assumed you must be somebody's wife or PA. That means not being treated as a

Women seek a better service

More women are making business trips, but hotels and airlines are slow to cater for them

customer in your own right. Why should you have to deal with that kind of aggravation when you are paying £100-plus for a room?"

Founders of the Business Women's Travel Club, formed 18 months ago to improve the lot of the solo female traveller, were astonished when enrolling members deluged them with letters about their problems.

Airlines were criticized for ticketing passengers as Mr, fawning on male passengers but ignoring the women, and doling out amenity kits containing razors and shaving foam. Hotels were criticized for slapdash security, badly lit corridors and car parks, and insensitivity in bars and restaurants. Dozens of women also reported a disturbing number of assaults and robbery.

Poorly equipped rooms designed with men in mind are

another problem — although most women are not impressed by the rose-on-the-pillow strategy adopted by some leading groups a few years ago. They would prefer a chain on the door, a hair-dryer in the bathroom and a waiter who gives them a good table.

Some groups, such as Crest, have targeted the female market. Research shows that most women do not want segregated floors or overtly distinctive treatment. They believe they can be well catered for by the provision of amenities such as spyholes, skirting boards, hair-dryers and extra toiletries, without being singled out as "different".

Some groups have admittedly made great efforts to refit rooms with women in mind and to ensure that women are well treated. Every Ramada hotel group employee attends a com-

pany training scheme aimed at developing positive attitudes towards female guests. Room keys are handed over face down, telephone callers asked to identify themselves, and staff trained to deal with unwanted male pests. Bedrooms have full-length mirrors and plenty of hangers.

Periquito, a new British group, also wants to attract female executives. The rooms have full-length mirrors, chains and peepholes, and a hook high enough for a full-length dress. Irons and ironing boards are available, and female guests receive a toiletry pack. Solo female diners will soon be asked whether they would like another woman guest to join them. Male room-service staff have been told to prop the door open when delivering orders to female guests. Pamela Carvell, Periquito's marketing director, says: "When you are alone wearing only a dressing gown, you can feel uncomfortable when a 6ft 4in man walks in and shuts the door."

In London, women at the Beaufort Hotel have their own front-door key and can pick up a restaurant guide featuring dining spots where unaccompanied women should feel at ease. Reeve's in Shepherd's Bush, which caters for an all-female clientele, has an intercom system to keep out unwanted street callers, and a line to the night porter in all rooms.

New ways to get on the move

Although 1990 is likely to be a difficult year for the retail travel sector, business travel market operators are optimistic. "Unlike the leisure travel market, business travel is buoyant and the boom looks likely to continue," says Alan Spence, chairman of the Guild of Business Travel Agents (GBTA).

The market is growing at an annual rate of about 5 per cent. The leading companies, with multiple branches, are Hogg Robinson, Thomas Cook, Pickfords Business Travel, American Express and the Scottish-based AT Mays. The GBTA's membership also includes 40 independents.

The Government recently acknowledged the differences between business and holiday travel by exempting business travel arrangements from the European Community directive making agents financially liable for the consequences of airline delays and the like.

The fastest-growing independent specialist business travel agent is Pickfords Business Travel, which last year increased its turnover by more than £16 million. Pickfords moved into the business travel

Traditional practice is preventing some companies using all the opportunities

market in 1986; today, the company operates 51 business travel centres and more than 30 "plants" — dedicated offices within big companies. Mr Spence criticizes the inadequate transport infrastructure. "We are still a quantum leap away from the transport system our customers are entitled to expect," he says.

Nigel Robinson, managing director of Pickfords Business Travel, is, however, critical of British companies for their myopic view of business travel. "More widespread company travel policies would benefit the client," he explains. "Almost every company has a strict company-car policy, and considering that more money is spent in the UK on business travel than on company cars, policies are essential."

European developments, east and west, underline the advantages of making the 1990s the decade to exploit the services offered by specialist business travel agents.

Pickfords' research shows that while the Soviet Union is the most popular eastern-bloc destination, Poland and East Germany are coming up fast. The company claims to be the only multiple business travel agent with a specialist department to handle the specific problems of eastern-bloc travel.

Pickfords' own survey of the business travel market, conducted independently by HR & H Consensus Research International, shows that though 84 per cent of companies use travel agency services, only 19 per cent use specialist business travel agents. Among these specialists, the survey found that "individual traveller attention" — a named consultant and a "traveller's details file" — were widespread, but consultancy advice was more sporadic, and such specialist services as travel spend analysis and liaison meetings were even rarer.

Experiences of poor travel management ranged from flight and hotel booking prob-

lems and incorrect information to a lack of local knowledge on the part of travel agents.

One way of tackling the problem of business travel is for a company to opt for a "dedicated business travel agent implant office".

An export-directed company such as Jaguar — with about 90 per cent of its booked travel being international — was a prime candidate for an implant office to provide the expertise and technological back-up of a large specialist business travel agent on site.

Within Jaguar, there are 450 travellers drawn from the fields of manufacturing and engineering, sales and marketing and finance. Pickfords, which runs the Jaguar implant office, provides management information for every journey.

Though big companies are increasingly making the travel-buying decision senior level, Pickfords points out that 80 per cent of actual buying is done by secretaries, many of whom will choose a travel agent without appreciating the reasons for the management decision, thus wasting the benefits of the decision.

Anthony Cox

Ground to air dialling takes off

At last, phone calls will be possible from aircraft

danger that the cellphone signals might interfere with the aircraft's electronics, but terrestrial cellphone users will have their own technological leap forward next year when the pan-European cellphone network is launched.

Cellphone users can now phone anywhere from Britain but cannot use their British handset in other European countries. Every country has its own system, incompatible with others.

That will change from next year when the pan-European network gets under way. When the network is complete phoning from anywhere in Europe, using the same handset should be possible.

Portable computers are valuable aids for the business traveller. Enormous

amounts of information can be up or down loaded via the telephone network using a simple modem (which converts computer signals into audio signals, then reverses the process at the receiving end). But the traveller must be very careful with his or her choice. Many computers advertised as portable are more properly described as "luggable". They can be carried by hand, but are really too heavy to be transported comfortably in this way and usually end up being toted around in shoulder bags.

A good portable will have a back-up battery, which means that it can be used for up to, say, four hours without plugging into the mains. But do not be too easily seduced by the advertising.

Although you will often see portables in use on trains (where, in first class at least, there is plenty of leg room and a sturdy table), few are used on aircraft. Balancing a portable on your knees or on the narrow fold-over tables used in aircraft is too much trouble.

Compulsive keepers-in-touch do not have to buy their own equipment. Cellphones, for example, can often be rented at the major travel termini and nearly all international hotels offer secretarial help and may even have special business centres available.

Malcolm Brown

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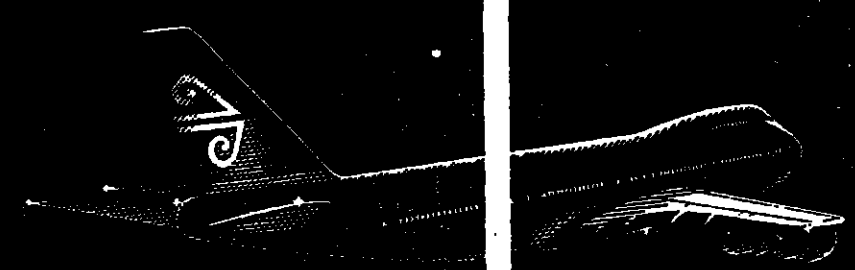
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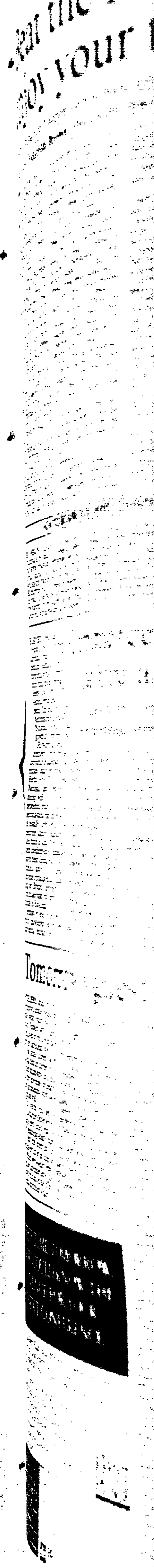
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Beat the risks, enjoy your trip

Going abroad on business carries many kinds of health hazards. Malcolm Brown offers some practical advice

Top business people are supposed to be experts at judging risk, but many seem oblivious to the personal risks they run when they travel. Health-care precautions are either forgotten or brushed aside as irrelevant.

Yet the arithmetic of travel illness is sobering. Estimates show, for example, that 40 per cent of international travellers suffer from diarrhoea abroad, 30 per cent of those being confined to bed and another 40 per cent having to change their travel plans, some because of serious illnesses such as malaria, cholera, yellow fever and Aids.

So if you are travelling, particularly outside North America or western Europe, spend a few minutes getting good medical advice before your trip. All doctors dealing with travellers issue Aids warnings.

The traveller need not be sexually promiscuous to be at risk of Aids. Many countries cannot afford either once-only disposable hypodermic needles or to screen blood, which increases the risks of contracting not just Aids, but serious

illnesses such as hepatitis B. There are simple, if not foolproof, precautions that can be taken. Firstly, carry an emergency medical kit — some medical centres quite bluntly call them "Aids kits". This should contain needles, syringes, sutures, sterile dressings and an intravenous canula in case a drip is required. Secondly, avoid blood unless you can be certain it has been screened. "If you can avoid having blood, do so," Dr Eric Le Fevre, medical officer at Thomas Cook's London vaccination centre, says. "The likelihood is that it has probably not been screened."

Aids cannot be prevented by vaccination, but "jabs" are available for most other serious diseases likely to be encountered around the world.

Doctors usually take the view that it is better to be safe than sorry and often advise travellers to get vaccinations even if they are not mandatory.

An important thing to remember is that travel plans can change in mid-trip, so you should consider the medical

risks and requirements not only of the known destination, but also of the main neighbouring countries.

Most travel organizations and airlines will furnish you with a country-by-country health checklist. Health crises can, of course, strike a country without warning, so again, most travel companies will have some kind of constantly updated computerized checklist and will advise you of any emergency needs.

Common sense has a big part to play in staying healthy abroad. Taking precautions should cut the risk of contracting stomach trouble, for example. The basic advice, says Dr Le Fevre's colleague, Dr Sarah Beeton, is to be careful what you eat and drink. Stick to bottled water and ensure the bottle top has not been tampered with. Do not have ice cubes in your drinks. Avoid fruit unless it can be peeled. Avoid salads.

A frequent complaint of the busy traveller is jet lag. There is so far no proven technique of dealing with the condition medically. The best advice is to allow time for your body to re-adjust.



Wise precaution: Dr Eric Le Fevre supervises jabs at Thomas Cook's London centre

HOW TO BE SURE YOU ARE COVERED

BUY HEALTH insurance if you travel. Most insurance is still sold on a "single-trip" basis, but some insurance companies now offer annual policies. UK nationals get free or reduced-cost medical care when visiting other EC countries, but only emergency treatment is covered. You will get care on the same terms as the nationals of the country you are visiting, which may not be the same as that available in

the UK. In West Germany, for example, you will normally get free medical or dental treatment, but will have to pay for prescribed medicines, hospital treatment or travel by ambulance. The key to free or reduced-cost medical care in EC countries is the form E111, available from any Post Office. Even with an E111, insurance is still necessary to cover the cost of repatriation to the UK and any other expenses.

Commerce keeps car hire afloat

A decline in tourist custom means prices are becoming more competitive

Aldous says, "the opportunities for British operators in mainland Europe are staggering good."

Short-term rental, now a £2.5 billion market in west Europe, is being fuelled by a rise in cross-border travel as the single European market approaches. Max McHardy, chairman of the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (BVRLA), says: "More and more companies are looking to extend their horizons, especially in a barrier-free Europe."

Last year, Budget estimated the European car rental fleet totalled about 530,000 vehicles. Six countries — Britain,

France, West Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Sweden — account for 72 per cent of the total rental fleet. However, the various western European markets display different characteristics.

Italy has only 806 rental cars for every million people, compared with 2,460 in Britain. West Germany, where the business is worth £738 million, is by far the biggest market in terms of value. Britain is second on £596 million and France third on £330 million.

The BVRLA says that of the 2.3 million new cars sold in Britain last year more than 500,000 were bought by rental

and leasing companies for a short but hard life — the average working life of a rental car with the large companies is nine months and is seldom much longer than a year with the smaller operators.

Business users are the short-term car-rental trade's best customers. Tourism now accounts for only a third of rental turnover. Mr McHardy says: "It is plain to us that car rental has become an integral part of everyday business life, and not just in the UK but all over the world."

Peter Kite, a partner in Coopers & Lybrand's Manchester-based logistics division, takes a special interest in the rental business.

He says: "In the first few years of the 1990s we will see the market becoming more price-competitive than it has been." For large customers, prices and conditions are already open to negotiation because of competition among the main operators and the rising challenge from companies concentrating on niche markets.

InterCity seeks happy returns

customer loyalty among the 750,000 regulars out of its 10 million travellers. The Frequent Traveller scheme offers benefits, including free seat reservations and a sleeper reservation discount, for a £15 annual fee.

There are various incentives in addition to rewards for customer loyalty. Points are accumulated depending on the ticket type and length of journey and can earn rewards ranging from upgrades to first class to holidays in the United States.

Although Pullman and first class are InterCity's top ser-



Dr Prideaux: loyalty aim

vice, more than 50 per cent of business travellers buy standard class tickets. So InterCity has developed a Silver Standard service, which provides carriage space for business travellers on key routes at busy times, to provide an environment in which they can work.

Silver Standard at present operates on the routes to Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle upon Tyne, and is to be introduced on selected trains between London and Preston, Blackpool, Carlisle and Hull.

British Rail estimates that

30 per cent of all InterCity passengers are travelling on business — a market worth £200 million a year.

BR's share of the UK travel business — about 21 per cent — has been achieved despite criticisms of fares and poor service. However, InterCity aims to have 90 per cent of trains arriving within 10 minutes of the published time.

BR and its business customers should benefit from the Channel Tunnel link, providing an efficient service to European cities, despite objections to the proposal.

For business travellers, flying to Europe will be hard to resist, but for short trips between cities the train is an acceptable alternative.

Alan Spence, the Guild of Business Travel Agents chairman, says: "By the mid-1990s, travel to and from airports should be eased by new rail links. We also need through trains between the London airports. The planned links to London City Airport should allow this venture to succeed."

Tomorrow's guest-friendly, hi-tech hotel

Computers and other aids are simplifying formalities for guests, but comfort and service are still top priorities

HOTELIERS used to think tomorrow's hotels would operate with robot-like precision. Visitors would check themselves in on a television monitor, authorize their bill on the same screen when leaving, heat up supper in an in-room microwave and pick up their morning croissants from an insulated valet cabinet on the wall.

That vision has yet to unfold (Marion Cotter writes). Today's best hotels may be more technology-based than ever, but the premium on personal service is as high as ever. Most work-weary executives would rather leave the electronic buttons in the office and trade computer wizardry

for a friendly face. Technology is, of course, rapidly being introduced in four-star and five-star hotels. Bedside remote controls already enable guests to switch television channels, change the room temperature and draw the curtains. By the turn of the century, bathrooms could be fitted with sensor-driven taps that turn on at the brush of a hand, bathtubs will boast a miniature television screen and pre-set radio stations will be usurped by multi-system music centres.

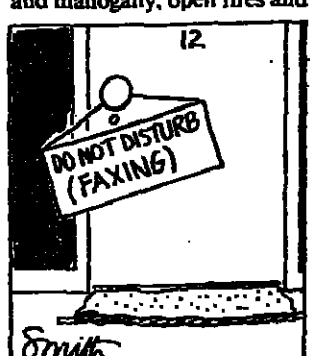
The 1990s pace-setting hotels will offer expensive in-room gadgets and electronic keycard locking systems and safes. Many Hilton hotel rooms in the United States already have two separate telephone lines, and many chains are installing plug-in computer and fax sockets.

In-room workstations are another certain feature of tomorrow's leading business hotels. The Du Pont, in Wilmington, Delaware, which is likely to set a benchmark in guest-room technology, has \$15,000 worth of electronic equipment in 40 of its new super-sized suites, together with a polished wood drop-leaf table. The designers say the in-house business centres that close at 6pm are of little use to guests who arrive late, leave early and still expect to dictate a 40-page document during their stay.

All suites and Dynasty Club rooms in the New World Harbour View in Hong Kong have socket points for personal computers and every room is fitted with a teletext system that can relay messages in several languages to other rooms as well as displaying travel and airline information. In Britain, Swallow is among the big chains intending to install office-style desks with computer and fax points and satellite television.

Video check-outs are also spreading fast. Departing guests making an early-morning getaway merely approve their bill on screen, having left an imprint of their credit card on arrival, and receive a full printed statement by post. Complications can arise if the bill is disputed, but several leading chains, including InterContinental and Holiday Inn, now use the system widely. Guests at some hotels

can even call up messages on their bedroom television instead of calling reception. Yet big is not necessarily beautiful. Small country house-style properties are gaining an important foothold at the expense of some of the big, bland monoliths built in the 1970s and 1980s.



down-filled duvets within a stone's throw of the City in London's cache of small, elite hotels. Menus feature home-made cakes and bangers and mash. Some have individually furnished bedrooms. Wood-paneled walls, antiques and country-style floral fabrics add to the warmth.

Even Hyatt, originator of the huge American atrium hotels, is changing its design tack to attract today's more discerning upmarket business traveller. The 360-room Park Hyatt in San Francisco, with its amber-toned Australian lacewood panelling, polished Italian granite and hand-made Chinese carpets, has a welcome warmth and intimacy lacking in many of the group's largest properties. Public areas

have been cut down to size and amenities are concentrated in the stylishly designed rooms.

Frequent-user incentives intended to pull high-spending executives back again and again are sprouting fast on both sides of the Atlantic. Free upgrades, priority bookings and assorted discounts and gifts are among the perks offered to card-carrying members of privilege club schemes.

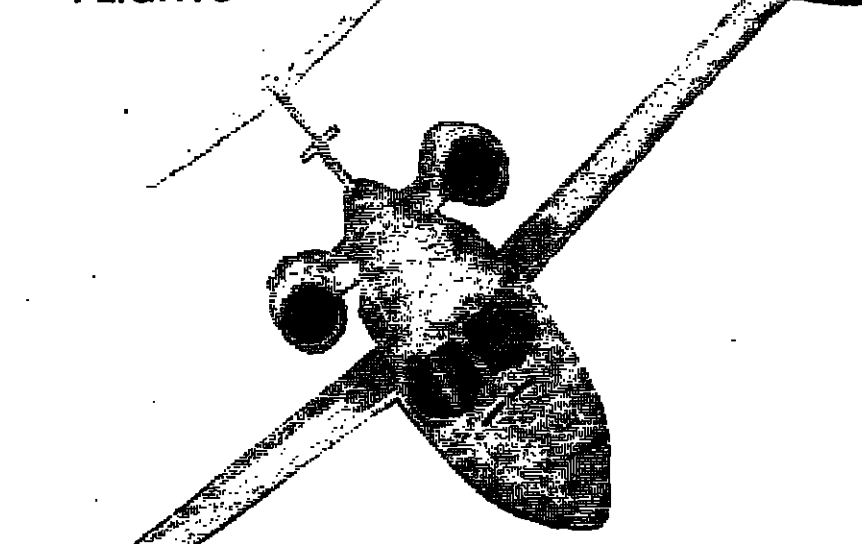
Brilliant competition means most are not only free, but require just a single night's stay to join up. Cardholders flashing their piece of plastic are often given the best available room, a private check-in desk, complimentary newspapers and late check-out facilities. Some hotel schemes are allied to airline frequent-flyer clubs, enabling members to earn bonus points every time they stay to be traded in for air tickets, dream holidays and free accommodation.

Westin, which awards 1,000 points for every overnight stay, gives a four-night resort getaway for 60,000 points. Sheraton Club members can redeem their awards against merchandise, tours and cruises as well as free hotel stays. Marriott guests accumulating "honored guest" awards can earn a free vacation, and Best Western's Crown Club members can gain club credits for every £1 spent on full-tariff room rates.

Upmarket chains such as Mandarin Oriental, which claims to give all its guests the red-carpet treatment, shun privilege card schemes as overworked marketing ploys. As the chain's two flagship properties in Bangkok and Hong Kong have chalked up more awards for service than most of the rest of the pack put together, many of today's business travellers clearly believe that good, old-fashioned service beats all other incentives hands down.

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MOTURING

By Kevin Eason
Motoring Correspondent

The new grow-up Porsche drivers

The prestige car is losing its yuppie customers, thanks to the shares crash, but demand is rising

One owner ordering his £60,000 928 Porsche was specific about what he wanted in his new car. His requirements included two telephones and a fax machine. When the car arrived from the West German factory at Porsche's headquarters in Reading, Berkshire, a team of engineers went to work installing the equipment to satisfy the businessman who had everything but obviously wanted a little more.

Not that the problem of harnessing the complicated wiring and overcoming power reductions caused by plugging almost an entire office into the car battery fazed the team. Strange requests are their business.

The Porsche buyer is spending a lot of money—at least £34,000 on the purchase price, after which the real work starts. The customers vary from the two-telephone man to the connoisseur who wants all knobs and switches covered in leather. One even wanted the speedometer and fascia dials—which cannot even be touched—leather-faced and the numbering imprinted on top. Paint jobs range

DO NOT drive a Porsche if you are easily embarrassed. Stares follow you everywhere. The Carrera 2 is the latest incarnation of the traditional 911 shape now 26 years old, but reaction in the quiet Midlands market towns was the same as for a flying saucer. The car looks beautiful in its latest and sleekest guise, with flatter wheel arches and tyres. However, it is Porsche's performance and road-holding that maintain the model's place as a true sports car.

Despite having 250 brake horsepower packed into the tail, there is no sign of nervousness. The cornering grip is always sure and there is no hint of roll even in the

steepest bend. In short, the car is a wonderful addition to the Porsche fleet. A growing number of critics say Porsche is pushed hard by the new Japanese supercars and it offers less value for money, although the standard package now includes a 10-speaker stereo system and an ultrasonic anti-theft alarm.

Compare the two cars: PORSCHE CARRERA 2 COUPE. Price: £44,058. Engine: 250bhp, air-cooled and rear-mounted, 3.6-litre, flat-six cylinder, through three-speed manual gearbox. Anti-lock brakes standard. Performance: 0-62mph (100 kilometres per hour) in 5.7

seconds, top speed 161mph. Fuel economy: 16.5 miles to the gallon in town driving. NISSAN 300ZX. New to Britain and promising to be a thriller, according to Nissan's performance statistics. The car is packed with features, from the compact disc player to four-wheel steering. Price: £34,499, or £35,450 (auto). Engine: 3-litre V6, 24-valve, twin-cam through twin turbochargers, twin intercoolers and catalytic converter. Five-speed manual or automatic gearbox, four-wheel steering and anti-lock brakes. Performance: 0-60mph in less than six seconds, top speed 160mph. Fuel figures not available.

break into the supercar market. Honda will have a gorgeous challenger here later in the year. Toyota's Supra range gets ever more exotic and Nissan is the latest contender with the fastest car the company has ever built, the 300ZX. This car, hailed as one of the best in its class, fires to 160mph and is intended for the forecourts of Porsche owners—the top prices are only £35,000.

It should worry Porsche, but the Reading men are decidedly sniffy about the upstart challenge from the East.

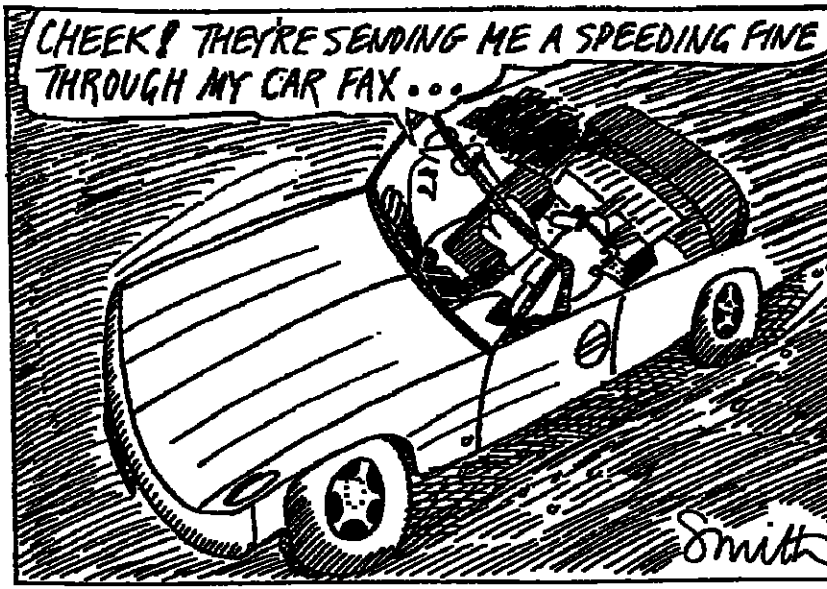
Peter Bulbeck, the managing director for Porsche Great Britain,

CARRERA 2: SLEEK NEWCOMER

break into the supercar market. Honda will have a gorgeous challenger here later in the year. Toyota's Supra range gets ever more exotic and Nissan is the latest contender with the fastest car the company has ever built, the 300ZX. This car, hailed as one of the best in its class, fires to 160mph and is intended for the forecourts of Porsche owners—the top prices are only £35,000.

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Peter Bulbeck, the managing director for Porsche Great Britain,



There is a market for those cars being produced by the Japanese. But I think they are all owners who eventually aspire to a Porsche. There is a mystique that comes from a company dedicated to building the best sports cars in the world for drivers.

"This is not a car from a huge company with interests in shipbuilding, or something else, which makes a handful of high-powered sports cars as a sideline."

The image was tarnished as Porsches became the yuppie car of the 1980s and sales soared alongside the stock market boom. The 1987 crash burst the bubble. At

the same time, Porsche killed off its £20,000 "starter" 924 model and sales slumped that year to fewer than 2,800.

However, the contraction signalled a return to some old-fashioned Porsche values and a customer base that has little to do with whiz-kids. The Porsche driver is typically a high-income professional, half are self-employed, the average age is 39, and only five in 100 come from the City. Some of the best sales are now in the North of England.

Sales have revived and last year

were up 10 per cent to more than 3,300—a figure Mr Bulbeck believes Porsche will maintain this year, despite the general slump and the attack on the company's market share by the Japanese.

Porsche sales account for one in five cars in the £30,000-plus bracket. This is a remarkable performance and there seems every reason to expect this share to be maintained. However, the company will not build more cars to outsell the Japanese, because that would destroy exclusivity, one of the main reasons for having a Porsche.

Safe but unsporty Volvo

Volvo has always fiercely guarded its reputation for building safe, reliable cars. The 480 coupe, however, was a deliberate departure for the sober Swedes—it was the first sports car to come from the company since the old P-1800 of the early 1970s.

Volvo designers say they wanted to create a car with "sporting flair, head-turning looks and spirited performance", as well as the traditional Volvo attributes of safety, comfort and practicality. They have ended up with a car that is safe and reliable—but hardly a sporting coupé.

Performance, like the car's looks, is not daring enough to be sporty, either in standard or turbo-charged engine form, yet not as ponderous as the customary family four-seater. Certainly, the car is about as ugly as possible, all nose and no tail, and looking as though two rival models have been stuck together by mistake.

But the interior is a model of Volvo's usual virtues. The neat dashboard layout and instrumentation, and comfortable seats with anti-slide" cushioning—which prevents occupants sliding through their seat belts into the foot wells during an accident—are highly practical.

However, Volvo should not be too discouraged by criticism, because manufacturers agree that the quickly changing demographics of the car-buying population mean there are more older motorists with an eye for quality and money to spend.

The 480 attracts middle-aged enthusiasts who seek reasonable performance and individual identity without wanting to leave burnt rubber in their wake.

Particularly in its turbo-charged derivative, this Volvo could easily be a sort of sporting package for after-40 drivers, reviving memories of Stirling Moss, rather than Ayrton Senna.

ESSENTIALS. Engine: 1.7-litre, four-cylinder with Garrett T2 turbo-charger, producing 120 bhp through five-speed gear box. Catalytic-equipped version available in July, although present cars use leaded or unleaded petrol. Performance: 0-60mph in less than nine seconds. Top speed 124 mph. Fuel consumption (official figures) 25.9 mpg in town. Price: £16,225.

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Proton, the Malaysian car-maker new to Britain, has celebrated its first anniversary by selling its 10,000th car, the fastest sold by a UK importer.

Take the worry out of the MOT test (curious how the old Transport Ministry name persists) with insurance cover, on offer from Carmichael, Martin & James, a Leeds-based group. The policy pays up to £250 towards the cost of parts and repairs if the car fails its annual over-see. Exceptions include tyres, wheels, brake lining and pads, glass and exhaust. Further information is available from Suite 2A, Josephs Well, Hanover Way, Park Lane, Leeds LS3 1AB.

Hey, big spenders. Manufacturers in the United States lashed out £1.7 billion on television advertising last year, 15 per cent more than in the previous year. General Motors was top with more than £500 million, about twice as much as Ford.

The Japanese also drive on the right, but there their similarity with the Americans ends, says Ted Clements, chief examiner at the Institute of Advanced Motorists. He has been helping Japanese businessmen in Britain get to grips with the road system and has just finished a session for 20 visiting executives at the institute's headquarters in Chislehurst, West London. His parting words to them were: "Don't try to drive too far in a day and take plenty of rest."

Simoniz has spent two years devising a range of "green" car-care products, from biodegradable shampoo to bumper polish. Its new packaging is also non-toxic when it is burnt.

The Escort is still getting a bashing

ONE of Britain's most popular cars is still undergoing punishing tests in Ford's new £1 million "torture chamber". The Escort has been Britain's best-selling car for almost a decade, but that does not mean the testing has to stop, according to engineers at the company research centre at Dunton, Essex.

The old model has been getting a thorough pounding while Ford also works on the new version of the car, which is due later this year and probably will be seen for the first time in September at the British International Motor Show in Birmingham.

The Dunton team is using the new test-bed facility to shake, rattle and roll cars until every last little vibration or squeak is found. Cyril Young, the manager of vehicle and component testing, says: "The kind of tests we carry out now have never been possible



A favourite across the Atlantic the Americans are queuing for the new Escort, a top 10 best-seller before. This should put us at least two years ahead of other manufacturers in solving a range of noise vibration and harshness problems." The wraps are firmly around the new Escort, but American buyers are already queuing for their version of one of the world's favourite compact cars. The Escort is also a top 10 best-seller in the United States. The styling is more angular than you would expect from the European sister version. The American Escort has ride and handling characteristics that are far different, and engine power comes in 1.9-litre form, or as a GT 1.8-litre provided by the Japanese Mazda company, one of Ford's key partners in the US. Prices there look good. The showroom list starts at just under £5,000.

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Continued on next page.

European Law Report

Contracted-out pensions fall within EC sex equality provisions

Barber v Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance Group (Case C-262/88)

Before O. Due, President and Judges Sir Gordon Slynn, F. A. Schöckweiler, M. Zuleeg, G. F. Mancini, R. Joliet, T. F. O'Higgins, J. C. Moutinho de Almeida, G. C. Rodríguez Iglesias, F. Grévisse, M. Díez de Velasco

Advocate General W. van Gerven (Opinion January 30) [Judgment May 17]

A pension paid under a contracted-out scheme constituted consideration paid by an employer to workers in respect of their employment and consequently fell within the scope of article 119 of the EEC Treaty. Genuine transparency of remuneration permitting effective judicial review, could be assured only if the principle of equal pay applied to each of the elements of remuneration granted to men or women.

Mr Barber was a member of the pension fund established by the defendant (GRE) which applied a non-contributory scheme which was a "contracted-out" scheme approved under the Social Security Pensions Act 1975.

Under the GRE Pensions Scheme, the normal pensionable age was fixed for the category of employees to which Mr Barber belonged at 62 for men and at 57 for women. The difference was equivalent to that which existed under the state social security scheme, where the normal pensionable age was 65 for men and 60 for women.

The "GRE Guide to Severance Terms" which formed part of Mr Barber's contract of employment, provided that, in the event of redundancy, members of the pension fund were entitled to an immediate pension subject to having attained the age of 55 for men or 50 for women.

Mr Barber was made redundant with effect from December

31, 1980 when he was aged 52. The GRE paid him the cash benefits provided for in the severance terms, the statutory redundancy payment and an ex gratia payment. He would have been entitled to a retirement pension as from the date of his 62nd birthday.

It was undisputed that a woman in the same position as Mr Barber would have received an immediate retirement pension as well as the statutory redundancy payment and that the total value of those benefits would have been greater than the amount paid to Mr Barber.

Taking the view that he had been a victim of unlawful discrimination based on sex, Mr Barber initiated proceedings before an industrial tribunal. When his claim was dismissed at first and second instance, he appealed to the Court of Appeal which decided to stay the proceedings and to ask the Court of Justice of the European Communities to give a preliminary ruling on five questions.

First question
In its first question the Court of Appeal sought to ascertain, in substance, whether the benefits paid by an employer to a worker in connection with the latter's compulsory redundancy fell within the scope of article 119 of the Treaty and the directive on equal pay, or within the scope of the directive on equal treatment.

The Court had consistently held that the first of those two directives, which was designed principally to facilitate the application of the principle of equal pay outlined in article 119, in no way altered the content or the scope of that principle as defined in the latter provision.

As the Court had also held, the concept of pay within the meaning of the second paragraph of article 119, comprised any other consideration, whether in cash or in kind, provided that the worker re-

ceived it, albeit indirectly, in respect of his employment from his employer.

Accordingly, the fact that certain benefits were paid after the termination of the employment relationship did not prevent them from being within the meaning of article 119.

With regard, in particular, to the compensation granted to a worker in connection with his redundancy, such compensation constituted a form of pay to which the worker was entitled in respect of his employment, and which was paid to him upon termination of the employment relationship.

It followed that compensation granted to a worker in connection with his redundancy fell, in principle, within the concept of pay for the purposes of article 119.

A redundancy payment made by an employer, such as that which was at issue, could not cease to constitute a form of pay on the sole ground that, rather than deriving from the contract of employment, it was a statutory or ex gratia payment.

Second question
In view of the answer given to the first question, the second question was to be understood as seeking in substance to ascertain whether a retirement pension paid under a contracted-out private occupational scheme fell within the scope of article 119, in particular where that pension was awarded in connection with compulsory redundancy.

The schemes in question were the result either of an agreement between workers and employers or of a unilateral decision taken by the employer. They were wholly financed by the employer or by both the employer and the workers without any contribution being made by the public authorities in any circumstances. Accordingly, such schemes formed part of the consideration offered to workers by employers.

Second, such schemes were

not compulsorily applicable to general categories of workers. On the contrary, they applied only to workers employed by certain undertakings, with the result that affiliation to those schemes derived, of necessity, from the employment relationship with a given employer.

Furthermore, even if the schemes in question were established in conformity with national legislation and consequently satisfied the conditions laid down by it for recognition as contracted-out schemes, they were governed by their own rules.

Third, even if the contributions paid to those schemes and the benefits which they provided were in part a substitute for those of the general statutory scheme, that fact could not preclude the application of article 119.

In its judgment in Case 170/84, *Bilka-Kaufhaus v Weber-Hart* (The Times May 14, 1986), [1986] ECR 1607, the Court had held that the benefits awarded under a supplementary pension scheme fell within the concept of pay within the meaning of article 119.

Therefore, unlike the benefits awarded by national statutory social security schemes, a pension paid under a contracted-out scheme constituted consideration paid by the employer to the worker in respect of his employment and consequently fell within the scope of article 119.

That interpretation of article 119 was not affected by the fact that the private occupational scheme in question had been set up in the form of a trust and was administered by trustees who were technically independent of the employer, since article 119 also applied to consideration received indirectly from the employer.

Third and fifth questions
In the third and fifth questions the Court of Appeal sought in substance to ascertain, in the first place, whether the pension paid to a worker in connection with his redundancy was a form of pay within the meaning of article 119 for a man

made compulsorily redundant to be entitled only to a deferred pension payable at the normal pensionable age when a woman in the same position received an immediate retirement pension as a result of the application of an age condition that varied according to sex in the same way as was provided for by the national statutory pension scheme.

Second, the Court of Appeal wished to ascertain, in substance, whether equal pay was to be ensured at the level of each element of remuneration or only on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of a consideration paid to workers.

In the case of the first of those two questions, it was sufficient to point out that article 119 prohibited any discrimination with regard to pay as between men and women, whatever the system which gave rise to such inequality.

Accordingly, it was contrary to article 119 to impose an age condition which differed according to sex in respect of pensions paid under a contracted-out scheme, even if the difference between the pensionable age for men and that for women was based on the one provided for by the national statutory scheme.

On the second of those questions, it was appropriate to refer to the judgment of the Court in Case 109/88, *Handels-og Kontorfunktionærernes Forbund i Danmark v Arbejdsgiverforening, acting on Danfoss* (The Times October 28, 1989) in which the Court emphasized the fundamental importance of transparency and, in particular, of the possibility of an effective judicial review, in order to prevent and, if necessary, eliminate any discrimination based on sex.

With regard to the means of verifying compliance with the principle of equal pay, if the national courts were under an obligation to make an assessment and a comparison of the

totality of all the various types of consideration granted, according to the circumstances, to men and women, a judicial review would be difficult and the effectiveness of article 119 would be diminished as a result.

It followed that genuine transparency, permitting an effective review, was assured only if the principle of equal pay applied to each of the elements of remuneration granted to men or women.

Fourth question
In its fourth question, the Court of Appeal asked whether article 119 and the directive on equal pay had direct effect in the instant circumstances.

In view of the answer given to the first question, it was unnecessary to discuss the effects of the directive on equal pay.

As for article 119, it was appropriate to refer to the established case law, according to which that provision applied directly to all forms of discrimination which might be identified solely with the aid of the criteria of equal work and equal pay referred to by that article, without national or Community measures being required to define them with greater precision in order to permit their application.

If a woman was entitled to an immediate retirement pension when she was made compulsorily redundant, but a man of the same age was entitled to a deferred pension, then that was an unequal pay between those two categories of workers, which the national court could itself establish by considering the components of the remuneration in question and the criteria laid down in article 119.

Effects of this judgment
As the Court had acknowledged in its judgment in Case 43/75 *Defrenne v Sabena* ([1976] ECR 455), it might, by way of exception, taking account of the serious difficulties which its judgment might create as regards events in the past, be

moved to restrict the possibility for all persons concerned, of relying on the interpretation which the Court, in proceedings on a reference to it for a preliminary ruling, gave to a provision.

With regard to the present case, Council Directive 79/7/EEC on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 No L6, p24) and Directive 86/378/EEC on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in occupational or social security schemes (OJ 1986 No L225, p40), authorized member states to defer the compulsory implementation of the principle of equal treatment for the purposes of granting old-age pensions and the possible consequences thereof for other benefits.

In the light of those directives, the member states and the parties concerned were reasonably entitled to consider that article 119 did not apply to pensions paid under contracted-out schemes and that derogations from the principle of equality between men and women were still permitted in that sphere.

In those circumstances, overlooking considerations of legal certainty precluded legal situations which had developed in the past from being called in question where that might upset, retroactively, the financial balance of many contracted-out pension schemes.

It was appropriate, however, to provide for an exception in favour of individuals who had taken action in good time in order to safeguard their rights. Finally, it had to be pointed out that no restriction on the effects of the *defrenne* interpretation could be permitted as regards the acquisition of entitlement to a pension as from the date of this judgment.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 The benefits paid by an employer to a worker in connection with the latter's compulsory redundancy fell within the scope of the second paragraph of article 119 of the Treaty, whether they were paid under a contract of employment, by virtue of legislative provisions, or on a voluntary basis.

2 A pension paid under a contracted-out private occupational scheme fell within the scope of article 119 of the Treaty.

3 It was contrary to article 119 for a man made compulsorily redundant to be entitled to claim only a deferred pension payable at the normal retirement age when a woman in the same position was entitled to an immediate retirement pension as a result of the application of an age condition that varied according to sex in the same way as was provided for by the national statutory pension scheme. The application of the principle of equal pay had to be ensured in respect of each element of remuneration and not only on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of the consideration paid to workers.

4 Article 119 of the Treaty might be relied upon before the national courts. It was for those courts to safeguard the rights which that provision conferred on individuals, in particular where a contracted-out pension scheme did not pay to a man on redundancy an immediate pension such as would be granted in a similar case to a woman.

5 The direct effect of article 119 of the Treaty might not be relied upon in order to claim entitlement to a pension, with effect from a date prior to that of this judgment, except in the case of workers or those claiming under them who had before that date initiated legal proceedings or raised an equivalent claim under the applicable national law.

House of Lords

Order was not made to implement directive

Finnegan v Clowney Youth Training Programme Ltd
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Griffiths, Lord Ackner, Lord Oliver of Aylmerton and Lord Lowry

[It would be wholly artificial to treat the Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order (1976 No 1042 (NI 15)) enacting the same provisions for Northern Ireland as the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 made for England, as having been made with the purpose of implementing Community law merely because it was made after the Council of the European Communities had adopted Council Directive (76/207/EEC) (OJ 1976 No L39, p40), the equal treatment directive.]

Article 8(4) of the 1976 Order, which provided that article 8(2) (which rendered discrimination on the ground of sex unlawful) did not apply to a "provision in relation to death or retirement", being in terms and context identical with section 6(4) of the 1975 Act, must have been intended by the legislature to have the same effect.

The House of Lords so held when dismissing an appeal by Mrs Frances Finnegan from a decision dated November 28, 1988 of the Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland (Lord Chief Justice Hutton and Lord Justice McDermott) who had allowed an appeal by Mrs Finnegan from a decision dated November 23, 1987 of a Belfast industrial tribunal that had held that Clowney had unlawfully discriminated against her on the grounds of sex contrary to the provisions of the 1976 Order in compulsory retiring her at 60 whereas comparable male employees would have been allowed to work until 65.

The Court of Appeal had held that the industrial tribunal had erred in its interpretation of article 8(4) of the Order and that to retire compulsorily a woman at 60 did not constitute unlawful discrimination since it came within the exception permitted by article 8(4).

Mr Patrick Coghlan, QC and Mr Seamus Treacy, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for Mrs Finnegan; Mr Patrick Markey, QC and Mr Brian Kennedy, both of the Northern Ireland Bar, for Clowney.

LORD BRIDGE said that Clowney's policy with respect to the retirement of its women was that women should retire at the age of 60 and men at 65. Mrs Finnegan reached the

age of 60 on March 1986. She was accordingly, dismissed as having reached retiring age on April 1, 1986.

She complained to an industrial tribunal that Clowney had discriminated against her on the ground of sex contrary to article 8 of the 1976 Order. The industrial tribunal upheld her complaint and awarded her £8,000 compensation. The Court of Appeal in Northern Ireland reversed that decision.

Mrs Finnegan's dismissal was a contravention of article 8(2) of the 1976 Order, which provided that it was unlawful for a person, "in the case of a woman employed by him at an establishment in Northern Ireland, to discriminate against her . . . (b) by dismissing her, or subjecting her to any other detriment, unless exempted by article 8(4).

Before examining the effect of that provision in force in Northern Ireland at the time, it was necessary to consider the origins and development of the comparable English legislation.

The Sex Discrimination Act 1975, by section 6(2)(b), made unlawful, for an employer, discrimination against a woman employee by dismissing her or subjecting her to any other detriment. But section 6(4) originally provided that subsection (2) should not apply to provision in relation to death or retirement.

The Equal Pay Act 1970 was brought into force simultaneously with the 1975 Act and was set out in Schedule 1 to the 1975 Act, as amended by it. Section 1 provided for the inclusion in every woman's contract of employment of an equality clause designed to ensure equality of contractual terms between men and women engaged on equivalent work.

But section 6(1A)(b) of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 2 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1986, again originally provided that an equality clause "shall not extend in relation to terms related to death or retirement, or to any provision made in connection with death or retirement."

When that legislation came into force it was common practice in industry and commerce for men and women to be retired at different ages, generally 65 and 60 respectively. Those were and, indeed remained, the ages at which men and women qualified for their state pension under the Social Security Act 1975.

There was no doubt that the intention of the legislature in section 6(4) of the 1975 Act and

section 6(1A) of the 1970 Act, as amended, was to exempt the practice of differentiating between men and women in retirement ages from the operation of the new law prohibiting sex discrimination in the field of employment.

On February 9, 1976, the Council of the European Communities adopted the equal treatment directive. Article 5(1) provided that application of the principle of equal treatment with regard to working conditions, including the conditions governing dismissal, meant that men and women should be guaranteed the same conditions without discrimination on the ground of sex.

On December 19, 1978, the Council adopted Council Directive (79/7/EEC) (OJ 1979, No L6, p24), the social security directive. Article 7(1) of that directive provided that the directive "shall be without prejudice to the right of member states to exclude from its scope (a) the determination of pensionable age for the purposes of granting old age and retirement pensions and the possible consequences thereof for other benefits . . ."

Between 1976 and 1986 no steps were taken to amend the 1975 Act or the 1970 Act in so far as they permitted discrimination between men and women in relation to their retirement ages.

In *Marshall v Southampton and South West Hampshire Area Health Authority (Teaching)* (Case 152/84) ([1986] QB 401), the European Court of Justice concluded, *inter alia*, that the social security directive did not prejudice the right of member states to exclude from its scope the determination of pensionable age for the purposes of granting old age and retirement pensions and the possible consequences thereof for other benefits falling within the statutory social security schemes.

The European Court further stated that the equal treatment directive had to be interpreted as meaning that a general policy concerning dismissal involving the dismissal of a woman solely because she had attained the qualifying age for a state pension was not in itself contrary to the directive.

The European Court further held that where, as in the case of *Marshall*, the alternative was that the employee would be dismissed, the employee could rely directly on the terms of the

directive. The Court also said that a directive might not of itself impose obligations on an individual and that a provision of a directive might not be relied upon as such against such a person.

The inevitable result of that case was that the United Kingdom government recognized the need to amend the 1975 Act and the 1970 Act to bring them into conformity with the equal treatment directive and to make sex discrimination by the application of different retirement ages for men and women unlawful. The necessary amendments were effected by section 2 of the Sex Discrimination Act 1986.

In *Duke v Reliance Systems Ltd* ([1988] AC 618) it was decided by the House, *inter alia*, that the 1975 Act, as amended, intended to give effect to the equal treatment directive as subsequently construed by the *Marshall* case.

Section 2(4) of the European Communities Act 1972 did not enable or constrain a British statute to distort the meaning of a British statute in order to conform with the provisions of the Community directive which had no direct effect between individuals.

Following a pattern in relation to the affairs of Northern Ireland which had been familiar since 1974, the relevant legislation by Order in Council applicable to Northern Ireland had been designed to reproduce precisely the substance of the legislation enacted by the Westminster Parliament.

Thus, in the 1976 Order article 8 reproduced precisely the provision of section 6 of the 1975 Act and in the 1970 Act article 1 reproduced precisely the provisions of section 6(1A) of the 1970 Act.

Similarly, following the *Marshall* case, appropriate amendments were made to the 1976 Order and the 1970 Act so that they reproduced precisely the provisions of section 6(1A) of the 1970 Act.

The House of Lords was further invited to make a reference to the European Court under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In his Lordship's opinion, the determination of the appeal did not depend on any question of Community law. The *inter alia* reference was for the United Kingdom courts and it was not suggested that the equal treatment directive was of direct effect between citizens.

LORD GRIFFITHS, LORD ACKNER, LORD OLIVER and LORD LOWRY said that the appeal should be dismissed.

Solicitors: Bindman & Partners for Napier & Co, Belfast; Seifert Sedley Williams for Mr C. M. McAlister, Belfast.

chronology in the 1975 Act passed before the equal treatment directive was adopted on February 9, 1976, whereas the 1976 Order was not made until July of that year.

He referred to a familiar line of authority for the proposition that the national legislation of member states of the European Community which was enacted for the purpose of implementing a European Council directive must be construed in the light of the directive and must, if at all possible, be interpreted in a way which would effect the purpose of the directive: see *von Colson and Kamann v Land Nordrhein-Westfalen* (Case 14/83) ([1984] ECR 1891); *Pickstone v Freemans plc* ([1989] AC 66) and *Lister v Forth Dry Dock and Construction Co Ltd* ([1989] 2 WLR 634).

His Lordship entirely accepted the validity of the proposition but he did not accept that it had any application here. Before the decision in the *Marshall* case neither the United Kingdom Parliament nor the United Kingdom government perceived any conflict between the provisions of section 6(4) of the 1975 Act and section 6(1A) of the 1970 Act, on the one hand, and the provisions of the European equal treatment directive on the other hand, such as to call for amendment of the English statute after the adoption of the directive.

Accordingly, it would appear to be wholly artificial to treat the 1976 Order enacting identical provisions for Northern Ireland, because it was made after the directive, as having been made with the purpose of implementing Community law.

The reality was that article 8(4) of the 1976 Order, being in identical terms and in an identical context to section 6(4) of the 1975 Act, must have been intended to have the identical effect.

The Lords were further invited to make a reference to the European Court under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In his Lordship's opinion, the determination of the appeal did not depend on any question of Community law. The *inter alia* reference was for the United Kingdom courts and it was not suggested that the equal treatment directive was of direct effect between citizens.

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Regina v Dairy Produce Quota Tribunal for England and Wales, Ex parte Caswell and Another
Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Lowry

[Speeches May 17]

When pursuant to Order 53, rule 4 of the Rules of the Supreme Court and section 31 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 an application for leave to apply for judicial review was not made promptly and in any event within three months, the court might refuse leave on the ground of delay unless it considered that there was good reason for extending the period.

But even if the court considered that there was such good reason, it might still refuse leave for substantive relief if in its opinion the granting of the relief would be likely to cause hardship or prejudice, as specified in section 31(6), or would be detrimental to good administration.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by Mr and Mrs Albert Caswell (trading as Mr A. R. and Mrs E. E. Caswell) from an order dated May 26, 1989, of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Lloyd and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss) (The Times May 30, 1989; [1989] 1 WLR 1089).

The Court of Appeal had dismissed the Caswells' appeal from Mr Justice Popplewell's decision (The Times December 7, 1988) that although their application for judicial review, begun in November 1987, of a decision of the Dairy Produce Quota Tribunal, given in February 1985, would have succeeded, it ought to be refused because of the undue delay in bringing the application forward.

The Caswells were further invited to make a reference to the European Court under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

In his Lordship's opinion, the determination of the appeal did not depend on any question of Community law. The *inter alia* reference was for the United Kingdom courts and it was not suggested that the equal treatment directive was of direct effect between citizens.

LORD GOFF said that the Caswells were dairy farmers, who farmed in partnership two farms in Dyfed, called Berthwyd and Pantdwrn. They sold milk wholesale to the Milk Marketing Board. The present case only concerned Pantdwrn.

As from April 1, 1984, the sale of milk wholesale became subject to a "wholesale quota" allocated to each milk producer under the Dairy Produce Quota Regulations (1984 SI NO 1947).

Under the regulations, milk producers became eligible for a "primary wholesale quota" and "secondary wholesale quota": see regulation 2 and paragraphs 9 and 10 of Schedule 2.

The former was allocated on the basis of milk production during the base year, which was 1983. The latter was allocated on the ground of insufficient primary wholesale quota, being based either on the fact that 1983 was an unrepresentative reference year, so enabling 1984 or 1982 to be selected in its place, or on the extent of a producer's investment for dairy farming.

An exceptional hardship claim could, however, be made where, *inter alia*, a producer had before April 2, 1984, entered into a transaction or made an arrangement, the reasonably expected outcome of which was a wholesale delivery of dairy produce, the receipt of which was capable of being allocated.

The Caswells were allocated primary and secondary wholesale quotas in respect of Berthwyd. However, there was no milk production at Pantdwrn during the reference year, 1983, or in earlier years, so a wholesale quota could only be awarded in

respect of Pantdwrn on the basis of exceptional hardship. The Caswells' claim was determined by the tribunal in February 1985.

It was decided that the quantity of dairy produce justified by the Caswells' claim for a whole sale quota in respect of Pantdwrn on the ground of exceptional hardship was 318,500 litres per annum, being the expected produce from 70 dairy cows at a specified average yield.

The Caswells then consulted a local non-legal expert in milk marketing matters. He advised them that there was nothing they could do at that time. They then consulted the European Commission, from which they received a reply in very general terms.

It was not until May 1987 that they first became aware of the remedy of judicial review, as a result of an article in the *Farming Press*.

A local solicitor was then consulted. He frankly admitted that he knew nothing about judicial review, but promptly referred the Caswells to their present solicitors.

Within a week they submitted an application for legal aid. It was not until October 5, 1987, after considerable correspondence, that legal aid was granted.

Within two days the Caswells attended a conference with counsel, who settled the necessary documents for an application for leave to apply for judicial review, which was entered on October 15. The tribunal was notified on October 19.

On October 21 Mr Justice Mann granted the Caswells leave to apply, observing that they would have to deal with the matter of delay at the hearing.

Mr Justice Popplewell heard the application on November 23, 1988. He concluded that the tribunal had erred in law in making an award based on the limited number of cows which the Caswells would have on Pantdwrn farm at the end of March 1985, without regard to the future. There was no appeal from that decision.

The judge then heard argument on the question of delay on November 25 but refused to make order of *mandamus certiorari* on the ground of delay.

The court had the task of giving effect to two provisions relating to delay, which at first sight were not easy to reconcile. First, in Order 53, rule 4(1), undue delay was defined as whereas in section 31(6) of the 1981 Act it was not.

Second, rule 4(1) applied only to applications for leave to apply for judicial review whereas section 31(6) applied both to applications for leave to apply and to applications for substantive relief.

Third, rule 4(1) looked to the existence of good reason for extending the specified period, whereas section 31(6) looked to certain effects of delay as grounds for refusing leave, or substantive relief, as the case might be.

A further twist was provided by the fact that rule 4(1) and (2) were expressed to be without prejudice to any statutory provision which had the effect of limiting the time within which an application for judicial review might be made and that section 31(6) was expressed to be without prejudice to any enactment or rule of court which had that effect.

The relationship between Order 53, rule 4 and section 31(6) of the 1981 Act was considered by the Court of Appeal in *R v Stratford-on-Avon District Council, Ex parte Jack-*

son ([1985] 1 WLR 1319) with particular reference to the meaning of the expression "undue delay".

The court's reasons for its conclusions there were: First, when section 31(6) and (7) referred to "an application for judicial review", those words had to be read as referring, where appropriate, to an application for leave to apply for judicial review.

Next, the effect of rule 4(1) was to limit the time within which an application for leave to apply for judicial review might be made in accordance with its terms, that is, promptly and in any event within three months.

The court had, however, power to grant leave to apply despite the fact that an application was late, if it considered that there was good reason to exercise that power, and it did that by extending the period.

Furthermore, the combined effect of section 31(7) and of rule 4(1) was that there was undue delay for the purposes of section 31(6) whenever the application for leave to apply was not made promptly and in any event within three months from the relevant date.

It followed that, when an application for leave to apply was not made promptly and in any event within three months, the court might refuse leave on the ground of delay unless it considered that there was good reason for extending the period.

But even if the court considered that there was such good reason, it might still refuse leave (or, where leave had been granted, substantive relief) if, in its opinion, the granting of the relief sought would be likely to cause hardship or prejudice (as specified in section 31(6)) or would be detrimental to good administration.

In that way sensible effect

SPORTS POLITICS

Electronic threat to implementation of Hillsborough report

By John Goodbody

PLANS for the rebuilding of Britain's football stadiums face problems following the launch of a money-making competition to rival spotting the ball, which funds the improvement of facilities at League grounds.

There is widespread concern among leading football authorities that Skilball, an electronic spot-the-ball game, will reduce the interest in the existing competition which supports the Football Trust.

The Trust announced after the publication of Lord Justice Taylor's report into the Hillsborough disaster that £70 million would be available over the next 10 years from the money it gets from the spot-the-ball competitions run by Littlewoods, Vernons and Zetters, the pools companies. Together with the £100 million coming over the next five years as a concession from the Government by reducing from 42½ per cent to 40 per cent the tax on pools betting, the £70 million was to finance the building of new stands and grounds, helping to make all

first and second division stadiums all-seater by 1995 and third and fourth by 2000.

Although a spokesman for the Pool Promoters Association said yesterday that "it did not envisage any effect on spotting the ball" from Skilball, there is profound worry in the hierarchy of football that if the competition proves popular, then the money targeted for the improvement of stadiums will diminish.

Skilball, which was launched on Monday, has a guaranteed £1 million in prizes to be announced tomorrow. It is estimated that £170 million will be available in prizes over the first year.

The competition requires the entrant to identify the exact position of the ball in the photograph of an incident in a game from which the ball has been electronically removed.

A 36-square grid is superimposed over six photographs. Entrants decide which square the centre of the ball was originally located in each picture and pay an entry

fee of £1 to the retailer, who feeds the entry form into a computer.

The prizes will be generated by the competition itself with 50 per cent of all entry money, less VAT, going into the prize fund.

Sixty per cent of the remainder of the entry money will go towards registered charities and will be distributed by the Golden Globe Charity Trust, chaired by Norman Tebbit MP.

Among the charities which will benefit are Action Research for the Crippled Child, MENCAP and also the Sports Aid Foundation, which will receive 10 per cent. Sport is represented on the trustees by Peter Varran, the chairman of the Sports Council and a governor of the Sports Aid Foundation.

It is regarded as bizarre that the chairman of the Sports Council, which has always had a close relationship with the Football Trust, should have aligned himself with a competition that could undermine the financing of the Trust.

GOLF

Boxall flying high with eight more birdies

From Mel Webb, Monza

RICHARD Boxall is probably the PGA European Tour's leading marksman — he bags more birdies than he does a machine gunner at a duck shoot. He was at it again yesterday, churning out another eight in a round of 65, seven under par, to lead the Italian Open by two shots.

In the last two full seasons, Boxall, aged 29, has had 594 birdies and 21 eagles, and before his course record-breaking round yesterday had another 140 birdies and three eagles to his name to put himself joint third in the table for the birdie-based Equity and Law Challenge towards the end of the season.

Strangely, Boxall has yet to win a full-blown Tour event, but the way he has been playing this season it can only be a matter of time. He was joint second after a play-off in the first tournament of the

Card of the course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	510	3	10	224	3
2	350	3	11	210	3
3	200	3	12	159	3
4	350	4	13	454	4
5	420	4	14	110	3
6	395	4	15	402	4
7	204	3	16	522	5
8	401	4	17	188	3
9	567	5	18	457	4
Out 3,497 36			In 3,580 36		
Total yardage: 7,077			Par: 72		

season and repeated the performance in Valencia last month. "Either you win or you don't," he said. "But I hate thinking about it."

If he maintains his form up to the rest of this event, he may be able to stop torturing himself. The paradox is that he ascribes the improvement in his game in the last few seasons to a slightly more conservative approach to his course management. This caution, it will not surprise anybody to know, does not extend to his putting.

He is playing in Monza only because he wants to be sure of being exempt from having to play in the final qualifying rounds of the Open Championship. The five leading players in the top 20 of the Order of Merit after the PGA championship next week who are not otherwise qualified will go straight into the tournament at St Andrews, and the sturdy Boxall has a third place to consolidate. Victory, and a £50,000 cheque, would be a nice way to consolidate.

Boxall leads by a stroke from Anders Sorensen, of Denmark, with Balduino Dassu, of Italy, and John Bland, of South Africa, veterans both, being joined by Jose-Maria Olazabal a further shot behind.

Severiano Ballesteros, meanwhile, put his revamped swing on public view for the first time and, sad to say, it did not do him much good as he trailed in with a 75, 10 strokes behind the leader. "Just a bad day," he said with an eloquent Spanish shrug, then went off to consult his brother, Vicente, who has been masterminding the attempt to reconstruct Ballesteros junior's swing. Yesterday the needle jumped out of the groove with a vengeance.

RESULTS FROM MILAN

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): R. Boxall, 65; A. Sorenson (Den), 67; C. Cassini (Italy), 68; J. Bland (South Africa), 69; J. Olazabal (Spain), 69; C. Stiller (USA), 70; M. McCann, M. A. Martin (Ireland), 71; R. W. G. Brown (Ireland), 72; J. Bland (Ireland), 73; J. Bland (Ireland), 74; J. Bland (Ireland), 75; J. Bland (Ireland), 76; J. Bland (Ireland), 77; J. Bland (Ireland), 78; J. Bland (Ireland), 79; J. Bland (Ireland), 80; J. Bland (Ireland), 81; J. Bland (Ireland), 82; J. Bland (Ireland), 83; J. Bland (Ireland), 84; J. Bland (Ireland), 85; J. Bland (Ireland), 86; J. Bland (Ireland), 87; J. Bland (Ireland), 88; J. Bland (Ireland), 89; J. Bland (Ireland), 90; J. Bland (Ireland), 91; J. Bland (Ireland), 92; J. Bland (Ireland), 93; J. Bland (Ireland), 94; J. Bland (Ireland), 95; J. Bland (Ireland), 96; J. Bland (Ireland), 97; J. Bland (Ireland), 98; J. Bland (Ireland), 99; J. Bland (Ireland), 100; J. Bland (Ireland), 101; J. Bland (Ireland), 102; J. 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Cumani colt lines up fresh success

By Mandarin

(Michael Phillips)

HIS best, Markofdistinction, from Luca Cumani's Newmarket stable, looks capable of winning the Juddmonte Locking Stakes at Newbury today.

Last year Markofdistinction was at his peak during the first half of the season, particularly when fourth in the 2,000 Guineas, less than two lengths behind Nashwan. That was a creditable effort following an interrupted preparation.

In hindsight, such a hard race may well have been his undoing. His form tapered off afterwards, although he ran well to finish third behind Zizal and Green Line Express in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood. On his return at Sandown last month, Markofdistinction again impressed by beating the race-fit Citadencer.



Willie Carson: double prospects at Newbury to land the Trusthouse Forte Mile.

though Safwan looked an improved horse when winning easily at Haydock afterwards. Monsage has three lengths to make up on Markofdistinction if one looks back to last year's Guineas, and only 3lb with which to do it.

I feel that Distant Relative and Green Line Express could form the nucleus of Markofdistinction's opposition. In last year's Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot there was only a neck between them when they finished third and fourth respectively behind Zizal and Polish Precedent.

While the weights favour Green Line Express this afternoon, I prefer Markofdistinction now that he is proven to be race-fit and, more importantly, that he is in good heart again.

In going for Warm Feeling in the Ultramar Handicap, I believe that his eighth-

length victory at Chester nine days ago should be interpreted as representing good value for his big penalty.

Warm Feeling has been beaten only once this year, and even then it was by the subsequent Chester Vase winner Belmez, who was second favourite for the Derby until injuring himself.

Kartajana, whose ante-post price for the Oaks is now as low as 10-1 in some lists even though she has only won a maiden at Leicester, will offer us the opportunity to make a more accurate assessment when she contests the William Hill Fillies' Trial. However, I prefer Wasmah, whose strong finish behind Sardagna at Newmarket caught my eye.

Wasmah's jockey, Willie Carson, can also win the Hae-Williams Stakes for Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum, his principal employer these days,

on Dayjar. When they finished behind Book The Band in the seven-furlong Free Handicap, Carson was not convinced that Dayjar would get the trip.

His subsequent win over six furlongs at Nottingham confirmed that this trip was just up his street.

Those who attach importance to jockeys suddenly on the move will note that both Michael Hills and Walter Swinburn are abandoning Newbury half-way through the programme and flying to Newmarket, where their dedication can be rewarded by Cedrela (4.55) and Sayyara (5.25) respectively.

Following that promising first run at Newmarket 15 days ago, I particularly like the look of the lauer, who is my nap to win the Tuddenhams Maiden Fillies' Stakes.

NEWBURY

Selections

By Mandarin

- 2.10 Mellotie.
 - 2.40 Warm Feeling.
 - 3.10 Markofdistinction.
 - 3.40 Wasmah.
 - 4.10 Dayjar.
 - 4.40 Billy Lomond.
 - 5.10 Food Of Love.
- By Michael Seely
- 2.40 Warm Feeling.
 - 3.10 SAFWAN.
 - 3.40 KARTAJANA (nap).
- The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.10 MELLOTTIE.

Going: good to firm

Draw: high numbers have slight advantage up to 1m straight

2.10 NEWBURY LADIES HANDICAP (Lady Amantes: 25.377; 1m 2f) (16 runners)

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|-----|------|----------|---|-----|------|----------|---|
| 101 | (1) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 101 | (16) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 102 | (2) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 102 | (17) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 103 | (3) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 103 | (18) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 104 | (4) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 104 | (19) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 105 | (5) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 105 | (20) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 106 | (6) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 106 | (21) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 107 | (7) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 107 | (22) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 108 | (8) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 108 | (23) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 109 | (9) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 109 | (24) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 110 | (10) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 110 | (25) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 111 | (11) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 111 | (26) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 112 | (12) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 112 | (27) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 113 | (13) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 113 | (28) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 114 | (14) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 114 | (29) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 115 | (15) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 115 | (30) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |
| 116 | (16) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 | 116 | (31) | 25.377-3 | MISSISSIPPI 25 (F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smith 5-11-7 |

Long headstays: 101-116, 117-122, 123-129, 130-136, 137-143, 144-150, 151-157, 158-164, 165-171, 172-178, 179-185, 186-192, 193-199, 200-206, 207-213, 214-220, 221-227, 228-234, 235-241, 242-248, 249-255, 256-262, 263-269, 270-276, 277-283, 284-290, 291-297, 298-304, 305-311, 312-318, 319-325, 326-332, 333-339, 340-346, 347-353, 354-360, 361-367, 368-374, 375-381, 382-388, 389-395, 396-402, 403-409, 410-416, 417-423, 424-430, 431-437, 438-444, 445-451, 452-458, 459-465, 466-472, 473-479, 480-486, 487-493, 494-500, 501-507, 508-514, 515-521, 522-528, 529-535, 536-542, 543-549, 550-556, 557-563, 564-570, 571-577, 578-584, 585-591, 592-598, 599-605, 606-612, 613-619, 620-626, 627-633, 634-640, 641-647, 648-654, 655-661, 662-668, 669-675, 676-682, 683-689, 690-696, 697-703, 704-710, 711-717, 718-724, 725-731, 732-738, 739-745, 746-752, 753-759, 760-766, 767-773, 774-780, 781-787, 788-794, 795-801, 802-808, 809-815, 816-822, 823-829, 830-836, 837-843, 844-850, 851-857, 858-864, 865-871, 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England's cricket selectors have the opportunity to make overdue amends to a gifted player who was too hastily discarded

Gower likely to be back in the fold

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

David Gower is the man to whom, it was often said, all things came easily. But that was before 1989. Now, a tormented year behind him, the most gifted batsman this country has produced in 20 years is demonstrating that he still has the ambition and the appetite to recapture those salad days before life turned nasty.

In 12 months, Gower has had to rebuild his professional and private life. If complacency ever had endangered him, adversity banished the prospect. But today, when the England selectors name their first team of the summer, they will surely restore the one

thing in his life he should never have lost.

It was one thing to take the captaincy from Gower last September. Only perversity had prevented him from resigning. It was quite another to discard him from the team. Arguably, it was both ungrateful and unsound; it left England without a left-hander and without the class which Gower constantly imposes. Even the admirable aim of a squad prepared to camouflage any shortcomings in honest sweat did not forgive the omission.

Gower's century on Wednesday was opportune confirmation that he is beginning to relish his new life with Hampshire. It should also be enough to convince Graham

Gooch and Micky Stewart that he is mentally and physically ready to return in next week's Texaco Trophy international against New Zealand. One-day cricket has never stirred Gower in the way that Test matches do, but he happens to be very good at it and there seems no reason why he should not resume his opening partnership with Gooch, which, in last year's corresponding games against Australia, produced stands worth 55, 30 and 123.

Wayne Larkins, Gooch's regular partner in the Caribbean, could legitimately be discounted either on grounds of form or fitness but loyalty may yet decree that he is reprieved. He plans to test his

finger injury in a second-team match on Monday and the selectors will be tempted to give him the chance. Injuries, as ever, have confused the issue but Allan Lamb will be named despite two weeks' absence with hamstring trouble. Robin Smith, another century-maker this week, and Lamb form the heavy artillery at Nos. 3 and 4, and the fifth specialist batting place is likely to go to Alec Stewart.

Although successful as a one-day player, Stewart still does not convince me as a Test batsman for the future, whereas Mike Atherton, of Lancashire, has potential to play for the next 10 years. Despite the form of his county colleague, Neil Fairbrother,

Atherton should be included for his versatility and his leg spin bowling, which gives Gooch a valuable extra option.

The final bowling place, in fact, presents problems. David Capel is out injured, which might have cleared the way for another matador return by Ian Botham, but for the fact that he, too, is injured. Although he intends to play this weekend, Botham cannot expect consideration until his county form demands it.

Chris Lewis and Derek Pringle could both be chosen but neither man would ideally bat as high as No. 6. If Pringle is included, on the justifiable grounds of his one-day expertise, one hopes the selectors do

not repeat their mistake of the past two years and react to his success by retaining him for the Test cricket at which he is much less effective.

An alternative in this position would be Graham Rose, of Somerset, who, at 26 years of age, is playing the best and most positive all-round cricket of his life. If he misses out, it may have to do with playing for an unfashionable county. Assuming the readiness of Angus Fraser, who returned to the Middlesex side this week, the rest of the bowling should include no surprises. My 13 would be: Gooch, Gower, Smith, Lamb, Stewart, Atherton, Rose, Lewis, Russell, Fraser, DeFreitas, Small, Hemmings.

Gatting hurries Kent to defeat with bat and ball

By Ivo Tennant

LORD'S, Middlesex (23pts) beat Kent (4) by eight wickets. UPON returning from his misadventures in South Africa, Mike Gatting declared that his enthusiasm for county cricket remained steadfast. Over the last three days he has shown this to be true in several balls. Kent's last four wickets and then batted with disdainful ease. He was 13 short of a century when Middlesex won with a day and more to spare.

Last season Gatting gave himself only 22 overs in the championship, without success. When he brought himself on yesterday afternoon it was only because others were spent. His wickets may not have been those of premier batsmen, but they gave him a great fillip.

His cricket was careless as it never was in South Africa. He batted as if having a net, driving at will through the cover ring and once hooking Penn for six with near-contempt. The pitch remained above criticism but Kent's medium pacers never properly put him to the test.

With Haynes, Roseberry and Ramprakash scoring their runs with equal rapidity, Middlesex had eight wickets and four overs of the day remaining when Gatting swept Ward for his fourteenth four. His innings lasted 109 minutes and with Ramprakash he had put on an unbeaten 114.

Kent could, of course, have done with more runs from their upper order, just as they could have done with Pienaar, who last year was promising great things. To lose Tavare and then him in successive seasons would have affected any county. Even one as strong as Middlesex.

will take time for Kent to recover from the loss of Taylor, 35 overnight, made 91 and Cowdrey 44, but there was scant support. Needless to say, it was Gatting who ended their partnership of 89, plucking a one-handed slip catch at full stretch off the shoulder of Cowdrey's bat.

Taylor, ever the reliable accumulator, ultimately went to Hughes, edging to first slip. He had batted with much resolve for 307 minutes, hitting 12 fours and a five. Fleming was yanked by Williams but Marsh and Ealham were putting together a useful partnership when Gatting brought himself on shortly before tea.

In his first over Marsh hit all round a ball on leg stump. In his second over Gatting knocked out Penn's middle stump, had a Mervin caught at second slip and Davis leg before on the back foot. The smile on Gatting's face was the like of which you never saw in South Africa.

KENT: First Innings 196 (M V Fleming 66; N F Williams 7 for 61).
Second Innings
S G Hinks c Haynes b Fraser 5
S J Benson c Embury b Williams 24
R Taylor c Embury b Hughes 91
T A Ward lbw b Fraser 13
C S Cowdrey c Gatting b Fraser 44
M V Fleming b Williams 24
J S A Marsh b Gatting 38
M A Ealham not out 19
Penn b Gatting 10
T A Marsh c Ramprakash b Gatting 10
R P Davis lbw b Gatting 0
Extras (b 11, lb 5, nb 6) 22
Total 269
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-63, 3-83, 4-172, 5-198, 6-220, 7-253, 8-265, 9-269, 10-269, 11-269, 12-269, 13-269, 14-269, 15-269, 16-269, 17-269, 18-269, 19-269, 20-269, 21-269, 22-269, 23-269, 24-269, 25-269, 26-269, 27-269, 28-269, 29-269, 30-269, 31-269, 32-269, 33-269, 34-269, 35-269, 36-269, 37-269, 38-269, 39-269, 40-269, 41-269, 42-269, 43-269, 44-269, 45-269, 46-269, 47-269, 48-269, 49-269, 50-269, 51-269, 52-269, 53-269, 54-269, 55-269, 56-269, 57-269, 58-269, 59-269, 60-269, 61-269, 62-269, 63-269, 64-269, 65-269, 66-269, 67-269, 68-269, 69-269, 70-269, 71-269, 72-269, 73-269, 74-269, 75-269, 76-269, 77-269, 78-269, 79-269, 80-269, 81-269, 82-269, 83-269, 84-269, 85-269, 86-269, 87-269, 88-269, 89-269, 90-269, 91-269, 92-269, 93-269, 94-269, 95-269, 96-269, 97-269, 98-269, 99-269, 100-269, 101-269, 102-269, 103-269, 104-269, 105-269, 106-269, 107-269, 108-269, 109-269, 110-269, 111-269, 112-269, 113-269, 114-269, 115-269, 116-269, 117-269, 118-269, 119-269, 120-269, 121-269, 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Variety the spice of Atherton's life

By Richard Streeton

DERBY (third day of four): Lancashire, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 217 runs ahead of Derbyshire.

THIS match required purpose and direction yesterday after long periods when the players seemed resigned to stalemate on the lifeless pitch. Derbyshire fought hard and narrowly avoided the follow-on and Atherton took five wickets in an innings for the first time in his short career.

From the start, it has been possible for a wrist spinner to turn the ball on a pitch which has had nothing else to commend it. His bowling was not taken to the cleaners previously took three of the five Lancashire wickets to fall.

Atherton as a bowler grew visibly in confidence during the England A tour to Zimbabwe, where he benefited from the bounce obtainable on the hard grounds. On this occasion bounce was unavailable but he compensated by spin and variety.

Atherton bowled more googlies than either leg breaks or top spinners, and another feature of his bowling was that there were fewer bad balls than are usually bowled by his type. Fitter off breaks were used at the other end for long periods, but never posed the same threat.

The first indication that there was going to be an improved measure of entertainment came when Base and Jean-Jacques, the two Derbyshire night-watchmen, remained together for 70 minutes. Fifty priceless runs came before Jean-Jacques dragged a ball into the stumps. Base reached a maiden half-century before he pulled a high catch to long-on off Atherton.

Adams, mistaking a drive to cover, and Roberts, who played back to a goosy, also brought down the two wickets. The batsmen continued to struggle.

against him. Kuiper, by his standards, was restrained before he was seventh out when he turned a ball from Fitter into the hands of backward short leg.

David Miller warns that Egypt could be the team that dumps England in the desert of world football

A poor country rich in World Cup pride

ANYONE watching Egypt deeply embarrassed the Scots at Aberdeen on Wednesday night will have recognized, more than ever, that England's passage of 17 matches without defeat is a distracting luxury, and if the warning is ignored, underestimating.

The Gascoignes of this world had better watch out. While his head, with his six-figure incomes, are preening themselves, there are millions in Africa with a vision of glory who are prepared to work far harder for less reward. Charities cannot get a ball signed at Tottenham Hotspur these days in under three months because the players say they do not have enough time. Well, a lesson, in every sense, may not be far off. Unless England vastly improve, collectively and individually, on their performance

against Denmark on Tuesday, Egypt could be the team which, as Morocco nearly did four years ago, sends them packing at the end of the World Cup first round.

Charlie Woods, who is part of Bobby Robson's opposition-analysis team for Italy, returns from studying the semi-professional Egyptians knowing that they have the attacking skill and speed to turn a suspect, old-fashioned back four England rearguard, and that their packed midfield, just like Denmark's, is capable of outnumbering and outwitting England's rigid and outdated formation.

Of course, we can expect England to be made of sterner stuff than the worst Scottish team in recent memory. Andy Roxburgh, Scotland's manager, was trying, after their 3-1 defeat, to put a brave face on a disastrous performance, offering that old manager's cliché

that preparatory matches "are a learning process". This Scotland team, predominantly home-based, could go on learning for another eight years and still know little.

To prefer Durie, of Chelsea, for example, to McNally, a member of Bayern's European Cup semi-finalists, does not seem to make sense; though that is a mere detail.

Woods, reflecting on what he will report to Robson, was duly impressed not only with several outstanding Egyptian players, but the pace with which they counter-attack. Hosan Hassan, born the year England won the World Cup, quick, elusive and intelligent, is capable of scoring goals against any defence; while Youssef, scoring a stunning third goal, is not a shade less valuable than the absurdly priced Waddle. "They have some good players," Woods said, in patent understatement.

Even more fundamental, in the contemporary context of tactics, is that a relatively unknown Egyptian coach, Mohammed El Gohary, can be seemingly more wise to current demands than either Roxburgh or Robson. A former centre forward with the Abhi club of Cairo, who has coached mostly in Egypt with short spells in Saudi and the Emirates, El Gohary uses the 3-5-2 system of most present teams.

To do so, he has flank players in midfield who are not, as in the Scotland and England teams, modified full backs without wingers to mark, but fluent players going forward who make McKimmie and Malpas or Stevens and Pearce look comparatively prosaic; in effect, wasted players in the wrong position. Ibrahim Hassan, twin of Hosan, is endlessly threatening on the right flank.

This is not to say that England

cannot defeat Egypt. With superior match-play experience, they could and should do so, but it is not a result on which I would bet if they need two points to qualify. Egypt are likely to score at least once. When Roxburgh claimed in defeat, "this was nothing to do with systems of play", I do not think he is correct. It was formal; as well as individual form which contributed to Scotland's severe setback, and they are left to worry whether Costa Rica can inflict similar embarrassment in their opening match in Italy.

England and Scotland have regressed since the time of Ramsey and Stein; the latter belatedly taking charge for the 1982 finals and attempting to persuade the squad that the national fixation with heart and lungs, physique and courage was wholly misplaced within modern concepts.

The modest El Gohary says that in less than five months, since Egypt qualified in their play-off with Algeria by the only goal from Hosan Hassan, he has been trying to turn amateurs into professionals. "We tend to be volatile, and what we need is emotional stability," he says. "I think we are beginning to find that. These matches against teams like Scotland are gaining us experience... a way of thinking differently, of reacting to the European style."

A solid midfield and counter-attacking speed on the flanks are what he wanted, he said; and on Wednesday's evidence that is what he has got. Egypt have defeated Czechoslovakia in Brno, and Scotland, drawn with Denmark, South Korea and Austria. The lesson for England is that they have to gain midfield control by not allowing Egypt space.

ATHLETICS

Official moves to overcome date clash

By David Powell
Athletics Correspondent

URGENT talks are being sought by David Dixon, the secretary of the Commonwealth Games Federation, with senior representatives of the European Athletic Association (EAA) to find a solution to the problem which threatens to keep Britain's best athletes out of the next Commonwealth Games.

Dixon said yesterday, in response to the discovery that the 1994 Commonwealth Games, in Victoria, Canada, are due to start only four days after the European championships, in Helsinki, that he had asked for a meeting as soon as possible between the federation and the European Athletic Association.

The European championships have been scheduled for August 9 to 14 and the Commonwealth Games for August 18 to 22. The Commonwealth Games schedule would probably begin on August 21, leaving only six days between the athletics programmes, and a 12-hour time difference.

Competitors in the long-recovery events, such as the marathon, 10,000 metres, walks, heptathlon and decathlon would have no chance of doing both. Eamon Martin, England's Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, said on Wednesday that he would not defend his title without at least a three-week gap.

Pierre Desruaux, the EAA secretary, said on Wednesday that there was "no chance of our changing". Dixon said yesterday: "The timetable of the Games is fixed so that the University of Victoria buildings are used during the vacation and we would have great difficulty in moving our date. So we have a major problem. It is a matter of great concern."

"The executive of the federation meet in Barcelona on June 8 with the Victoria organizing committee and it will be on the agenda there. Any major decision has to come from the general assembly of the federation and the next one will be sometime in early 1991. It is such an important issue that we must find a solution."

Brendan Foster, the former international athlete and now a television analyst, underlined yesterday the catastrophic effect the proximity of the dates would have on the Games. Foster won the Commonwealth 10,000 metres in 1978 but, while the European championships hot on their heels, he could finish only fourth.

"With 200 metres to go I was leading, but I ran out of legs. I was the fastest 10,000 metres runner in the world that year and should have been good enough to win, but the dates were too close together."

"If you take out the British athletes, the Commonwealth Games is a non-event. If they don't sort this out, it could be the end of the Commonwealth Games. I would guess that British television coverage is by far the most important to the Commonwealth Games, and if you take the star British athletes out of the Games I would be amazed if the TV people were interested."

European titles carry more international weight than Commonwealth ones, particularly when it comes to negotiating appearance money.

The 'yes' bank says no to ASA

By Craig Lord

THE bank that likes to say "yes" is saying no to continued sponsorship of competitive swimming. TSB will not renew its £1.5 million three-year contract with the Amateur Swimming Association when it expires in December.

Withdrawal of support for senior swimming and leading national competitions by the TSB leaves the ASA with three main stages of the sport without sponsorship. Sun Life have ended its funding of the national intermediate squad, which acts as a vital bridge between junior and senior teams, early this year.

Only youth swimming will retain its sponsor, Essex, which has provided the longest and one of the most productive deals in the sport.

David Wynn Owen, of TSB, said: "We will not renew our contract for senior swimming when it runs out on December 19. However, our funding of the ASA's awards scheme will continue for a further two years as planned. We will still hold talks with the ASA to see if we can help in some way with the swimming plan to 1993."

Derek Stubbs, director of swimming for England, confirmed the move and said it was always said to lose a sponsor. The ASA is now actively searching for alternative funding, whether in the form of a large package deal, such as the TSB's, or sponsorship of individual events or projects, such as the national championships or foreign travel for the national team.

FOOTBALL

The desire that is driving van Basten to Cup success

From Ken Shulman
Milan

MARCO van Basten's season in Italy ended in disappointment. He was sent off for showing dissent as his club, AC Milan, lost surprisingly to Verona and the championship went to Naples; then, four days later, he was on the losing side as Juventus won the Italian Cup.

The team which once seemed likely to win everything it entered now has only one prize still within its reach: the European Cup. Milan play Benfica, of Portugal, on in Vienna next Wednesday.

Aged 26, van Basten is approaching the peak of his career. He was the leading scorer in the Italian first division this season, an achievement that, however, brought him little pleasure.

"I've always said that the scoring race was of secondary importance," he said. "And besides, of those 19 goals, only three or four were crucial. It's always good to score, but what counts is scoring when it decides the outcome of a match. I'd like nothing better than to score the goal which would give Milan its second consecutive Champions' Cup."

Behind these words burns a more ardent desire. Van Basten would like to lead The Netherlands to its first World Cup victory.

"It would be foolish to make predictions at this point," he said. "There are so many good teams in the tournament this year, like Brazil, Italy and West Germany, and in our group, we're going to have to play hard right from the start."



A Dutch master: van Basten

"I think that The Netherlands has as good a chance as anyone else, but it's impossible to say. Too many things can happen in a month. To win the World Cup, you need more than skill and desire. You also need a little luck."

At his best, van Basten is capable of deciding any contest at any moment. English supporters will remember with a shudder how he scored three times to eliminate

Bobby Robson's team from the 1988 European Championships, before going on to score the decisive goal against West Germany in the semi-final and another, with an unforgettable stunning volley, against the Soviet Union in the final.

The last three years have been important ones for van Basten. The tall, graceful forward, who came to Italy in 1987 after winning the Cup Winners' Cup with Ajax, and, as the leading goalscorer in Europe, the Golden Boot, has matured.

He missed most of his first Italian season after undergoing surgery on the right ankle which had troubled him since his days in Amsterdam. During his six month convalescence, the Dutchman came very close to giving up football altogether.

"I just couldn't find the motivation to get started again," he recalled. "I didn't want to get well. I started looking around myself, and realized that football wasn't the entire world, that it was only a small slice of the world,

and that it wasn't truly important whether I got better or not."

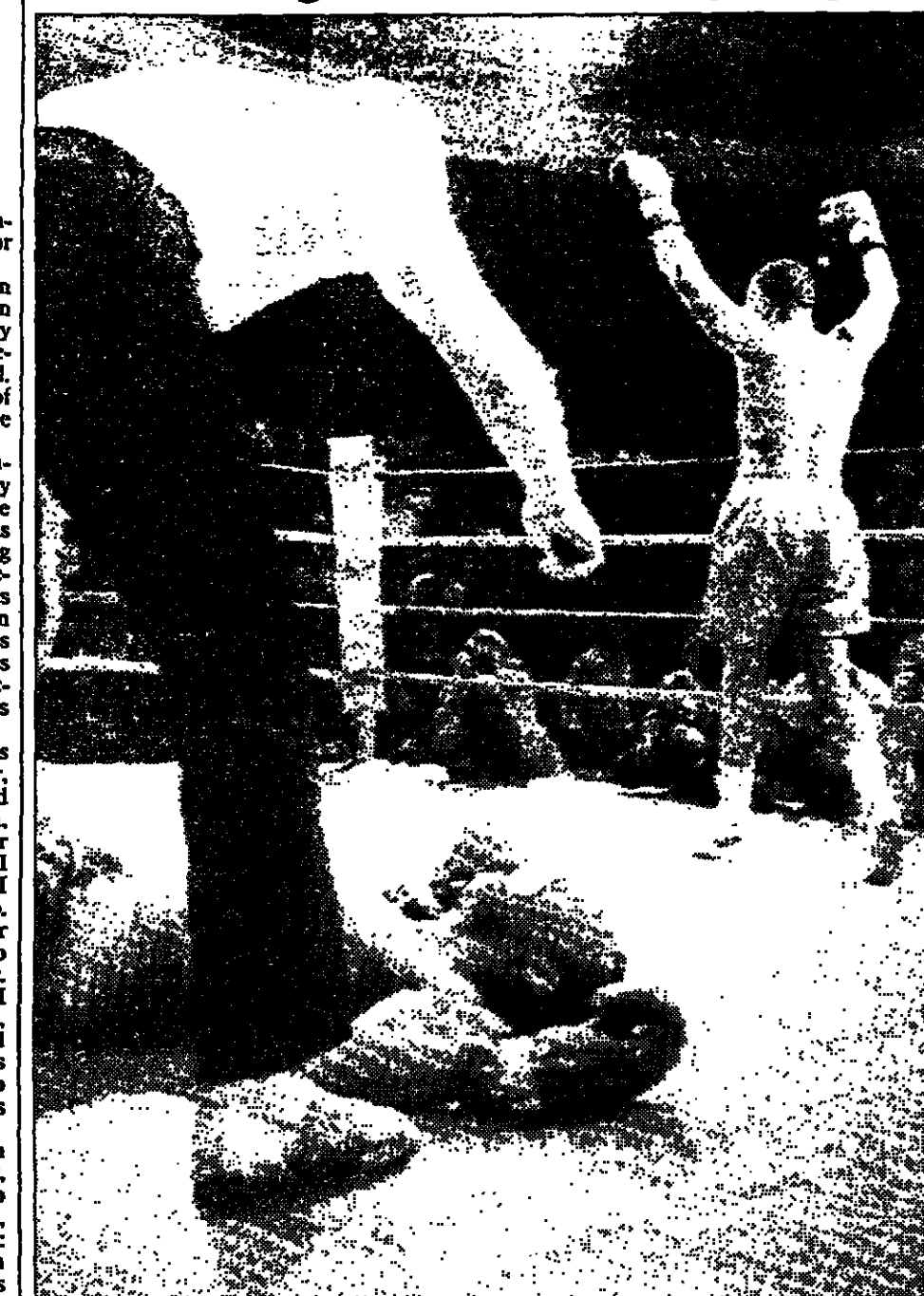
Nevertheless, van Basten emerged from his depression and began working his way back to fitness. "It was something inside of me," he said. "No one can plant that kind of drive in you. It has to come from within."

The experience has tempered him, both physically and psychologically. Off the field, van Basten is often as inscrutable as he is during play. Intelligent and courteous, he answers questions patiently, but without passion or emotion. One senses he is surprised to have come this far, that he hasn't quite reconciled himself with his extraordinary abilities.

For example, though his career, viewed from afar, seems a rapid, uninterrupted rise to international stardom, he sees it differently. "I never thought this far ahead when I was young," he explained. "I looked at things step by step. As a boy, I wanted to play for Ajax. Then, I wanted to become a first team regular. Then, I thought that maybe I could make the national team, and after that, that I could play in Italy. Your horizons tend to broaden with each step that you take. And there's always another step to take."

The step which awaits van Basten now begins in Italy, where he has a chance to do what his boyhood idol, Johann Cruyff, failed to do: win World Cup medal with The Netherlands. "This is probably the only opportunity I'll have," he observed. "In 1994, I'll be 30 years old. I think that's a little old to be playing football."

Lording it in the boxing ring



Aaron Pryor, the former junior world welterweight champion, raises his arms in delight after knocking down Darryl Jones during Wednesday's fight in Madison

TENNIS

Mancini running into form

From Richard Evans, Rome

THE defeat of Brad Gilbert, the defending champion, in the third round of the Italian Open yesterday did little to change the impression that this is still anybody's tournament.

Certainly, the manner of Mancini's victory — more of an obliteration to the tune of 6-2, 6-1 — suggested that the Argentine is finally running into the kind of form that is going to make him very hard to beat.

Nevertheless, Andrés Gómez, twice champion here in the early Eighties, is in fine form as his 6-4, 7-5 defeat of the consistent Swede, Magnus Gustafsson, confirmed.

Guillermo Pérez-Roldán is also starting to regain some of the confidence that took him to

the final here in 1988 and after beating his fellow-Argentinian, Martín Jaite, 6-4, 6-3, he will now face the Spaniard, Emilio Sanchez.

Perhaps Omar Camporese would be the least likely winner but at least he is keeping the large crowds in good humour by progressing with the kind of clay-court expertise he only seems capable of producing in Italy.

Under the lights on Wednesday, he out-played the No. 5 seed, Jay Berger, and yesterday, he reached the quarter-finals with a solid 6-4, 6-1 win over the improving Dutchman, Paul Haarhuis. However, he must now play Gómez.

Meanwhile, if any of the contenders wanted a hint of how

to win at the Foro Italico they could have done worse than to venture out to courts two and three and watch the over-35 doubles. Four former champions were in action and, though Martin Mulligan, John Newcombe, Adriano Panatta and Vitas Gerulaitis are moving a little more stiffly now, the strokes are largely intact and, judging by the size of the gallery, so is their popularity.

RESULTS: Third round: A Mancini (Arg) bt B Gilbert (USA), 6-2, 6-1; E Sanchez (Sp) bt J Swenson (Swe), 6-3, 6-2; M Mulligan (Aus) bt J Gummerson (Swe), 6-3, 6-2; A Gomez (Ec) bt M Gustafsson (Swe), 6-4, 7-5; O Camporese (It) bt P Haarhuis (Neth), 6-4, 6-1; G Pérez-Roldán (Arg) bt M Jaite (Arg), 6-4, 6-3; A Chesnokov (USSR) bt J Coulter (USA), 4-6, 7-6, 6-3.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: M O Fuchs (Aust) bt D Balocco (It), 6-4, 6-4; V Roubicek (Czech) bt K Oskabe (Mor), 6-1, 6-2; H Cuervo (Arg) bt S Dole-Ples (US), 6-3, 6-4; K Alami (Mor) bt M Nkwawue (Nig), 6-4, 7-6; Woomers (Ken) bt K Knudsen (Den), 6-4, 6-3; K Sharpe (Aus) bt S Bentley (GB), 6-3, 6-2; A Benzon (It) bt M Pratt (Aus), 6-4, 6-2.

MARY JOE Fernandez, plagued by injuries and restricted to a handful of tournaments this year, has been forced out of the Luthansa Cup here. Fernandez, aged 18, from Miami, injured her lower back and retired after winning the opening game of a rain-delayed third-round match against Judith Wiesner. Her participation in the French Open, where she was a semi-finalist last year, must now be in doubt.

"I am working harder than ever on strengthening my body so that I can be getting injured more," the No. 4 seed said.

No pain, no gain is something Fernandez knows all about. After reaching the final of the Australian Open in January, she

injured her shoulder and had to withdraw from the Pan Pacific tournament in Tokyo.

Then she pulled a hamstring in the semi-finals of the Virginia Slims of Florida, and most recently her back gave out in Barcelona. Obviously, the problem remains.

"I had to pull out of the Italian Open last week because my back was still a bit stiff, and now I have to warm up all parts of my body before a match," she said.

In another third-round match, Conchita Martínez took one hour to defeat Larisa Savchenko 6-3, 6-1.

RESULTS: Third round: C Martínez (Sp) bt L Savchenko (USSR), 6-3, 6-1; J Wiesner (Aut) bt M J Fernandez (US), 6-1 ret.

POLO

Merlos strikes in dramatic finish

By John Watson

WINDSOR Park took on Rio Pardo to compete for the high-gallop Sheraton Hotels Trophy at the middle of the fifth chukka, when Kent and Tassara each found the Rio Pardo flag to put Windsor two ahead.

At 6-6 in the last, when there was only a minute's play left, Hector Galindo, of Windsor, who had registered many close goal misses, made it 7-6. Then, in the final seconds, the Rio

Pardo pivot man, Pite Merlos, riding an outstanding pony of Rio Pardo's, the eight-year-old bay mare, Bienvenida, took a remarkable penalty shot from a range of nearly 80 yards to find the target and equalize.

WINDSOR PARK: 1, G Kent (4), 2, H Galindo (8), 3, M Tassara (8), 4, B Prince of Wales (4), 5, P Merlos (8), 6, R Pardo (4).

Cambridge in sight of play-off victory

By Keith Blackmore

JOHN Beck, the manager of Cambridge United, stood in the middle of the Welling Street pitch after his team had beaten Maidstone 2-0 on Wednesday night and said: "This is the last place in the world you would want to have to come to win a play-off, but we did it. My players were magnificent."

Magnificent might not have been the word used by anyone less elated by the occasion to describe a match more notable for tension than football, but the result was impressive.

It took Cambridge to the final of the fourth division play-offs at Wembley next week, and continues the club's remarkable season. Since Beck took over from Chris Turner in January, Cambridge have reached the quarter-finals of the play-offs, climbed from the lower reaches of the fourth division to the threshold of the third.

Beck deserves most, if not all of the credit. He described Wednesday's result as the product of 18 months of preparation, but it was a particular decision

of his which changed the course of the match. Maidstone needed only a goalless draw and when Beck decided to play with 12 minutes left of extra time, they seemed likely to get it.

Beck said: "I had asked the four lads up front not to go back for corners. I wanted to control the game, and I did it. It worked."

It certainly did. Vaughan caught the corner, kicked the ball upfield and Dublin outran the Maidstone defence to score. The second goal followed a similar break which ended with Dublin being tripped and Cheetam scoring from the penalty spot.

That put the match beyond doubt and ended the hopes of moving from non-League football to the third division in two seasons. Keith Peacock, their manager, could not contain his disappointment.

"For us to reach the play-offs in our first season was a great achievement, but you always want more. To get within 12 minutes of Wembley is a bitter pill to swallow. But we will swallow it and be back next year."

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

LONGBOURNE: Representative male 100m: C. Rumbold (10.1), 10.4m; 200m: C. Rumbold (21.2), 21.4m; 400m: C. Rumbold (51.5), 51.8m; 800m: C. Rumbold (2:01.5), 2:01.8m; 1,600m: C. Rumbold (5:01.5), 5:01.8m; 3,200m: C. Rumbold (10:01.5), 10:01.8m; 6,400m: C. Rumbold (20:01.5), 20:01.8m; 12,800m: C. Rumbold (40:01.5), 40:01.8m; 25,600m: C. Rumbold (1:20:01.5), 1:20:01.8m; 51,200m: C. Rumbold (2:40:01.5), 2:40:01.8m; 102,400m: C. Rumbold (5:20:01.5), 5:20:01.8m; 204,800m: C. Rumbold (10:40:01.5), 10:40:01.8m; 409,600m: C. Rumbold (21:20:01.5), 21:20:01.8m; 819,200m: C. Rumbold (42:40:01.5), 42:40:01.8m; 1,638,400m: C. Rumbold (85:20:01.5), 85:20:01.8m; 3,276,800m: C. Rumbold (170:40:01.5), 170:40:01.8m; 6,553,600m: C. Rumbold (341:20:01.5), 341:20:01.8m; 13,107,200m: C. Rumbold (682:40:01.5), 682:40:01.8m; 26,214,400m: C. Rumbold (1,365:20:01.5), 1,365:20:01.8m; 52,428,800m: C. Rumbold (2,730:40:01.5), 2,730:40:01.8m; 104,857,600m: C. Rumbold (5,461:20:01.5), 5,461:20:01.8m; 209,715,200m: C. Rumbold (10,922:40:01.5), 10,922:40:01.8m; 419,430,400m: C. Rumbold (21,845:20:01.5), 21,845:20:01.8m; 838,860,800m: C. Rumbold (43,690:40:01.5), 43,690:40:01.8m; 1,677,721,600m: C. Rumbold (87,380:40:01.5), 87,380:40:01.8m; 3,355,443,200m: C. Rumbold (174,760:40:01.5), 174,760:40:01.8m; 6,710,886,400m: C. Rumbold (349,520:40:01.5), 349,520:40:01.8m; 13,421,772,800m: C. Rumbold (699,040:40:01.5), 699,040:40:01.8m; 26,843,545,600m: C. Rumbold (1,398,080:40:01.5), 1,398,080:40:01.8m; 53,687,091,200m: C. Rumbold (2,796,160:40:01.5), 2,796,160:40:01.8m; 107,374,182,400m: C. Rumbold (5,592,320:40:01.5), 5,592,320:40:01.8m; 214,748,364,800m: C. Rumbold (11,184,640:40:01.5), 11,184,640:40:01.8m; 429,496,729,600m: C. Rumbold (22,369,280:40:01.5), 22,369,280:40:01.8m; 858,993,459,200m: C. Rumbold (44,738,560:40:01.5), 44,738,560:40:01.8m; 1,717,986,918,400m: C. Rumbold (89,477,120:40:01.5), 89,477,120:40:01.8m; 3,435,973,836,800m: C. Rumbold (178,954,240:40:01.5), 178,954,240:40:01.8m; 6,871,947,673,600m: C. Rumbold (357,908,480:40:01.5), 357,908,480:40:01.8m; 13,743,895,347,200m: C. Rumbold (715,816,960:40:01.5), 715,816,960:40:01.8m; 27,487,790,694,400m: C. Rumbold (1,431,633,920:40:01.5), 1,431,633,920:40:01.8m; 54,975,581,388,800m: C. Rumbold (2,863,267,840:40:01.5), 2,863,267,840:40:01.8m; 109,951,162,777,600m: C. Rumbold (5,726,535,680:40:01.5), 5,726,535,680:40:01.8m; 219,902,325,555,200m: C. Rumbold (11,453,071,360:40:01.5), 11,453,071,360:40:01.8m; 439,804,651,110,400m: C. Rumbold (22,906,142,720:40:01.5), 22,906,142,720:40:01.8m; 879,609,302,220,800m: C. Rumbold (45,812,285,440:40:01.5), 45,812,285,440:40:01.8m; 1,759,218,604,441,600m: C. Rumbold (91,624,570,880:40:01.5), 91,624,570,880:40:01.8m; 3,518,437,208,883,200m: C. Rumbold (183,249,141,760:40:01.5), 183,249,141,760:40:01.8m; 7,036,874,417,766,400m: C. Rumbold (366,498,283,520:40:01.5), 366,498,283,520:40:01.8m; 14,073,748,835,532,800m: C. Rumbold (732,996,567,040:40:01.5), 732,996,567,040:40:01.8m; 28,147,497,671,065,600m: C. Rumbold (1,465,993,134,080:40:01.5), 1,465,993,134,080:40:01.8m; 56,294,995,342,131,200m: C. Rumbold (2,931,986,268,160:40:01.5), 2,931,986,268,160:40:01.8m; 112,589,990,684,262,400m: C. Rumbold (5,863,972,536,320:40:01.5), 5,863,972,536,320:40:01.8m; 225,179,981,368,524,800m: C. Rumbold (11,727,945,072,640:40:01.5), 11,727,945,072,640:40:01.8m; 450,359,962,737,049,600m: C. Rumbold (23,455,890,145,280:40:01.5), 23,455,890,145,280:40:01.8m; 900,719,925,474,099,200m: C. Rumbold (46,911,780,290,560:40:01.5), 46,911,780,290,560:40:01.8m; 1,801,439,850,948,198,400m: C. Rumbold (93,823,560,581,120:40:01.5), 93,823,560,581,120:40:01.8m; 3,602,879,701,896,396,800m: C. Rumbold (187,647,121,162,240:40:01.5), 187,647,121,162,240:40:01.8m; 7,205,759,403,792,793,600m: C. Rumbold (375,294,242,324,480:40:01.5), 375,294,242,324,480:40:01.8m; 14,411,518,807,585,587,200m: C. Rumbold (750,588,484,648,960:40:01.5), 750,588,484,648,960:40:01.8m; 28,823,037,615,171,174,400m: C. Rumbold (1,501,176,969,297,920:40:01.5), 1,501,176,969,297,920:40:01.8m; 57,646,075,230,342,348,800m: C. Rumbold (3,002,353,938,595,840:40:01.5), 3,002,353,938,595,840:40:01.8m; 115,292,150,460,684,697,600m: C. Rumbold (6,004,707,877,191,680:40:01.5), 6,004,707,877,191,680:40:01.8m; 230,584,300,921,369,395,200m: C. Rumbold (12,009,415,754,383,360:40:01.5), 12,009,415,754,383,360:40:01.8m; 461,168,601,842,738,790,400m: C. Rumbold (24,018,831,508,766,720:40:01.5), 24,018,831,508,766,720:40:01.8m; 922,337,203,685,477,580,800m: C. Rumbold (48,037,663,017,533,440:40:01.5), 48,037,663,017,533,440:40:01.8m; 1,844,674,407,370,955,161,600m: C. Rumbold (96,075,326,035,066,880:40:01.5), 96,075,326,035,066,880:40:01.8m; 3,689,348,814,741,910,323,200m: C. Rumbold (192,150,65

Only one worry for Charlton as he plays safe

By Clive White

JACK Charlton, the Republic of Ireland football manager, intends to take on the world with roughly the same squad and pretty much the same team which took Europe by storm two years ago. Only three of those who were present in West Germany were not among his provisional squad of 22 announced yesterday for the World Cup finals in Italy next month.

Once Charlton had decided to banish from his thoughts anyone who had not already appeared for the Republic, the squad virtually picked itself. Barring injury, pundits are left only to speculate on perhaps one midfield position in the Republic's line-up for the opening game against England on June 11.

The few whose minds were put at peace yesterday were Stapleton, who was left out of the squad to play the Soviet Union recently, Waddock, who has made just one appearance in five years, David Kelly, who fell out of favour when his club career declined, and Slaven, who has made just two appearances.

The squad provides the Irish with adequate cover in just about every position save for wide left of midfield where injury has long deprived them of Galvin, the former Tottenham Hotspur winger. Indeed, it is this position in the first XI which is liable to give

Rep of Ire squad

P. Bonner (Celtic), G. Peysen (Bournemouth), C. Morris (Celtic), S. Staunton (Liverpool), C. Hughton (Tottenham Hotspur), M. McCarthy (Millwall), N. Morris (Blackburn Rovers), D. O'Leary (Arsenal), P. McCrann (Aston Villa), R. Houghton (Liverpool), A. Townsend (Norwich City), K. Sheedy (Everton), R. Whelan (Liverpool), A. Gascoigne (Aston Villa), J. Aldridge (Sheff Wed), D. Kelly (Leicester City), N. Quinn (Manchester City), F. Stapleton (Blackburn Rovers), B. Slaven (Middlesbrough), J. Byrne (Le Havre), G. Waddock (Millwall), J. Sheridan (Sheff Wed, Wednesday).

Charlton has only selection headache.

Even so, one wonders whether a country of the Republic's limited resources (even allowing for the speed with which they can suddenly summon up "Irishmen" from nowhere) can afford to leave out players of the quality of McLoughlin, for all their inexperience.

Charlton has conceded that Swindon Town's impressive midfielder would probably have been included in his squad had he been able to familiarize himself with the Irish and international football. The second division promotion issue has prevented him from doing so and consequently Charlton has been forced to leave him out. Milligan and Irwin, of Oldham Athletic, have suffered similarly because of club success. Their loss has been the gain of people like Waddock, though how much more international experience he has

gained than, say, McLoughlin, is debatable. It would be hard, though, for anyone to begrudge the selection of the Millwall player, whose career seemed over five years ago when specialists advised him to retire because of a serious knee injury.

Waddock resurrected his career in Belgium and returned to the Football League last year when Millwall agreed to repay the insurance claim made by Queen's Park Rangers, his previous English club.

As for West Germany, the squad is heavily reliant upon players with dubious Irish ancestry. Indeed there are no more than seven players in squad who could be described as Irish born and bred. The most recent addition is that of Slaven, the Middlesbrough forward, who was born and bred in Scotland.

Slaven, who has an Irish grandfather, turned down Scotland to play for the Republic and his selection was justification for his decision. The scorer of 32 goals this season for a struggling club, his hopes of starting a game in Italy will depend upon the success or otherwise of Aldridge and Gascoigne, the first choice attack.

The only other players, apart from Waddock, who have been promoted since the European championship finals are O'Leary, Staunton and Townsend.

Juventus celebrate a second Italian cup success



Giancarlo Marocchi, of Juventus, holds aloft the UEFA Cup on Wednesday night after the Turin club became the second team from Italy to win a European trophy this season. Juventus, 3-1 ahead on aggregate against another Italian club, Fiorentina, after the first leg of the final in Turin, held their countrymen to a goalless draw in the return leg in Avellino, despite the sending-off of the defender, Pascale Bruno. Sampdoria have already won the Cup Winners' Cup

Bingham relying on Dowie to unsettle Uruguayans

By George Ace

IT IS unlikely that Billy Bingham, the Northern Ireland team manager, will start tonight's game against Uruguay with any of the three under-23 players, Morrow, Devine and Todd, that he added to his panel after the match against the Republic of Ireland B side at Portadown on Tuesday night.

Bingham needs a good result after a run of disappointing matches throughout the World Cup qualifying stages and that will almost certainly influence his selection with experience getting the nod over youthful potential.

And a selection difficulty he faces is the uncertainty over Mal Donaghy, the Manchester United defender.

"Obviously if Donaghy is required for the Cup Final, I cannot possibly play him tomorrow night," Bingham said prior to an Irish work-out yesterday. "There are several

options open to me but I will sleep on it tonight and announce my team after a training session tomorrow morning.

But it is a fair bet that he will start the match with the Luton Town trio of Danny Wilson, Black and Dowie who won his first cap as a substitute against Norway recently.

Dowie, aged 25, has been finding the net consistently for his club and his robust style of play has an unsettling effect on defences.

"I've spoken to several central defenders who have played against Dowie this season and they're unanimous that he is a difficult opponent to tie down."

And with his two regular front men, Clarke (injured) and Quinn (omitted) not in the panel it will be a major shock if Dowie does not start the match.

Tommy Wright, battling to regain his first team place with Newcastle United, looks the obvious choice for the goal-keeping spot, despite a solid performance by McKnight last Tuesday night.

Worthing and McDonald, not available for the March 27 match against Norway, will certainly be included and if Donaghy does not make it he may well hand the captaincy to McDonald.

McCreery, Rogan, Fleming and Hill are other near certainties to be included but Bingham has a knack of always providing one or two shocks and that pattern may well be maintained when he names his side around noon.

Bingham said: "I owe Bobby Robson a favour; we will give Uruguay something to think about tomorrow night and he can carry on when they play England next week at Wembley."

Robson in no mood for change

By Roddy Forsyth

BOBBY Robson, the England manager, reacted angrily yesterday to reports that he had been approached by PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch cup-holders, with a view to him taking over as coach.

Robson, soon to disclose his World Cup squad, said: "I am devoting all my time and energy to preparing England for the World Cup and nothing will deflect me from that. I've worked damn hard with England for eight years and I'm not about to quit. I've been linked with Dutch clubs — especially PSV — over the years so there is nothing new in that."

Cees Ploegma, a PSV official, had earlier confirmed his club's interest in Robson, whose England contract has another year to run. "We are looking around for a new trainer and Mr Robson is a possibility," he said.

THE tone of the post mortem which took place yesterday, in the aftermath of Scotland's disturbing 3-1 defeat at the hands of Pittodrie, was surprisingly positive, if not exactly jaunty. "It was an unpleasant evening" was the opening remark of the Scotland coach, Andy Roxburgh.

"We weren't happy at the way things turned out. It underlined the fact that you can't be charitable at international level. The top international teams don't give anything away, which is why England are so hard to beat," he said, offering an unexpected note of encouragement to Bobby Robson, whose Egyptian players will face the Egyptians when the real shooting match gets under way in Italy.

For all that English persistence with a flat back four in defence may offer the Egyptians a considerable incentive to pursue the direct running game which so

embarrassed Scotland at Pittodrie, Robson's players are unlikely to prove as accommodatingly suicidal as their northern counterparts.

The recently revised Scottish habit of conceding needless goals, which has been alarmingly persistent since the 3-1 defeat by Yugoslavia in a World Cup match in Zagreb last September, was vividly evident at Pittodrie. The Zagreb match, followed by a 3-0 defeat by France in the Parc des Princes, demonstrated that the most productive assault on the Scottish defence usually consists of a cross to the back post, a region which seems neither to fall under the jurisdiction of the goalkeeper or his covering defenders.

All three goals conceded in Yugoslavia came about by this method, two of them helpfully put past the inert Jim Leighton for the Liverpool pair of Nicol and Gillespie, although the goalkeeper's own uncharacteristic irresolution was the key factor.

Roxburgh's cold comfort

It was the beginning of a

happy season for Leighton which culminated in the remarkable decision by Alex Ferguson, who brought him from Aberdeen to Old Trafford, to drop him from the FA Cup Final replay last night. If Andy Goram of Hibernian is now the likely first choice for Italy, it was nevertheless understandable that Roxburgh should have wished to expose Bryan Gunn, of Norwich City. The fact that the fixture was being played at the ground where Gunn understudied Leighton with Aberdeen should have eased his nerves. Instead, he froze. Of the first Egyptian score, Roxburgh said: "Gunn though Malpas was going to head it and Malpas thought Gunn was coming for it."

When the subject of the second goal was brought up, Roxburgh exclaimed: "How can you legislate for something like that? Gordon Durie was under no pressure at all and he turns round and sticks

the ball on to the head of an Egyptian player."

If Roxburgh's judgment that the Scots were simply tried and flat may be accepted, he nevertheless faces a sizeable task in trying to left them in the scant time which remains before the flight to Genoa. Wednesday's evidence suggests that the best hope of exploiting the preferred five-man defensive arrangement lies in casting Gough in the right full back position and hoping that Malpas achieves full match fitness in order to cover the left.

Roxburgh, always one to quarry optimism from an unlikely source, retired from yesterday's proceedings on a decidedly hopeful note. "Look at it this way," he said. "The spies are out in force but the one natural advantage is that nobody has seen us put the same team out twice in a row, so our opponents must be scratching their heads."

Northants outlaw beamers More delays in Lord's work

By Jack Bailey

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE County Cricket Club yesterday issued a statement after their inquiry into Wednesday's incident involving the three high full pitches bowled by Curtly Ambrose at Dernot Reeve, of Warwickshire. It was confused and confusing but it pointed to some welcome developments.

Ambrose apologized to Reeve and to Lloyd, the Warwickshire captain, and the Warwickshire players were apparently prepared to forgive and forget.

The fact that Ambrose "consistently and adamantly" maintained that his three beamers in two overs were not intentional was noted but waved aside by Northamptonshire, who said that any repetition by him, or any other of their players, would lead to

suspension and a heavy fine. This as a course of action for the future goes further than the law demands and as a statement of intent had little to do with the situation on Wednesday when Reeve was placed in considerable danger.

The statement made no mention of the incident prior to Ambrose's flurry when Thomas's audible dissent after a decision in favour of Reeve by the umpire, Don Oslar, drew strong words from Oslar to the Northamptonshire captain, Rob Bailey.

Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire secretary-manager, said "no comment" to enquiries on this point, which suggested strongly that the matter was the subject of an

official report and thus sub judice.

It would have been altogether better if the statement had contained no reference to the laws of the game. "Northamptonshire," it said, "would support any initiative recommended to amend Law 42 to ensure greater powers are given to umpires to withdraw bowlers instantly should they regard bowlers as infringing the Law regarding unfair play, whether accidentally or otherwise."

On this basis, Mark Robinson would have been withdrawn from running on the pitch after his first transgression on Tuesday and not as happened on his third, on Wednesday. Is that what they really want?

Match report, page 46

COMPLETION dates for the Compton and Edrich stands at Lord's, already well behind schedule, have been put back by a further two to three weeks because of extended work on the foundations. In addition, the contractor, John Lellott, was supposed to have begun pouring concrete on May 7 but has still to find the right mix.

"Every time I speak to the contractor, that is the answer I receive," Lieutenant Colonel John Stephenson, the secretary of MCC, said. David Male, chairman of MCC's estates subcommittee, said that there could be other minor extensions.

MCC has another problem in that it has been able to acquire only 1,000 temporary seats for the Benson and

By Ivo Tennant

Hedges Cup final on July 14, rather than the 2,000 it wanted. It has not been able to obtain any temporary seats for the Test match against New Zealand starting on June 21. "I am afraid we have run out of options," Stephenson said. "All temporary stands have been taken up by events such as Ascot and Henley. Fortunately, in the spring we ordered 1,000 seats for the Cup final as insurance for the new stands not being ready."

Westminster City Council's safety officer has not yet given his approval to the temporary seating, which will be in the form of four blocks. "We have a good relationship with them and I have no doubt that it will be backed," Stephenson said.

The new stands were expected to have been com-

pleted on April 30. Revised estimates are: upper Compton, August 14-21; lower Compton, September 28-October 5; upper Edrich, July 28-August 4; lower Edrich, August 14-21. Discussions over the financial implications are continuing between MCC and John Lellott.

"A lot of MCC members are pretty irate about it," Stephenson said: "but we are going to persevere with these contractors." Problems originally arose because of the design and topography of the concrete and steel structure. The sub-contractors did not understand the complexities involved and as a result the Test and County Cricket Board will lose up to £1 million.

More cricket, page 46

Newcastle face closure of ground after riot

By Louise Taylor

GORDON McKeag, the chairman of Newcastle United, yesterday blamed the violence at St James's Park on Wednesday night on the play-off system and defended his decision to admit supporters from Sunderland.

McKeag, who said he found the play-off concept "distasteful" added: "The Luton-type solution [banning away supporters] has some superficial attractions but... Sunderland supporters would have bought tickets anyway and there probably would have been more trouble if they had not been segregated."

The trouble began after Sunderland's second goal in the 85th minute, which effectively ended Newcastle's hopes of promotion. Home supporters ran onto the pitch

and headed for their Sunderland counterparts at the opposite end of the ground. Only the presence of 350 policemen, many with dogs, prevented them achieving this aim.

McKeag agreed that play-off tensions could not excuse violence which resulted in 66 arrests, 29 of them inside the ground. Twelve spectators and 12 policemen were injured.

The Football Association is certain to order a commission of inquiry which, in addition to a report from the referee, George Courtney, will also be able to examine a dossier compiled by an independent observer. Newcastle could well be faced with the closure of St James's Park during the early part of next season or a heavy fine.

Parting of the ways

STOCKHOLM (Reuters) — Mats Wilander, the former world No. 1 who is preparing to return to the tennis circuit after a break since March, said yesterday that he and his coach, Jonte Sjogren, were going their separate ways after 10 years of co-operation.

"We part as the best of friends and I don't expect to find a better trainer. But from an inspirational point of view, it might be good to have a change," Wilander said.

Cup debutants

Banbury, Basingstoke and Gravesend are among the newcomers in the Pilkington Cup for next rugby union season after winning their respective county cup competitions.

SPORT IN BRIEF



Wilander: appreciative

Missing links

Severiano Ballesteros will return to the scene of some of his greatest golfing triumphs when he plays in the £400,000 NM English Open at the Belfry from August 16 to 19,

Child's play

Helen Rollason, a former sports teacher who lists her pastimes as tennis, hockey and skiing, will become the first woman to host BBC television's sporting flagship, *Grandstand*, when she presents the programme tomorrow. Rollason was previously a reporter on *Newsround*, a children's news programme, and reported sport on Channel 4.

Sponsor deal

Globe Investment Trust has entered a sponsorship deal with the National Rifle Association to award a centenary medal to every competitor who shoots at the annual Bisley Rifle Meeting this year, from July 17 to 28. There are expected to be between 1,500 and 2,000 competitors.

Welsh players board with late ultimatum

PAUL Thorburn and Mark Ring may be stopped from entering Namibia after they were yesterday handed an ultimatum ordering them to renounce links with South Africa hours before they were scheduled to fly out with the Wales rugby union tour party.

The Namibian Government contacted the Welsh Rugby Union, saying Ring and Thorburn would have to sign anti-South Africa declarations. Both took part in the controversial centenary celebrations of the South African Rugby Board earlier this year, but the Namibians were apparently unaware that a third member of the 26-man Welsh party, Tony Clement, had also played there.

Lydney, the third division club, have been banned from playing for two weeks at the start of next season because of their poor disciplinary record.

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